

*A Handful after the Harvest-Man:*

474

Or, A Loving

SALUTATION

TO

Sions Mourners,

BEING A

COLLECTION

OF SEVERAL

Epistles & Testimonies

Of that Faithful Labourer in the Lord's  
VINEYARD,

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Richard Samble.

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Together with several Testimonies of Friends,  
that were Witnesses of his Labour in the  
Gospel in his latter days.

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L O N D O N:

*Printed and Sold by Andrew Sowle at the Crooked-Billet in  
Holloway-Lane, Shoreditch, 1684.*

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Holloway-Lane, Shoreditch, 1884.



## A Preface to the Reader.

**T**He Author of the following Epistles and Testimonies was one among many of the weak things of the World that was called and chosen to labour and travail in the Work of the Ministry of that Gospel which is not in Word, but in Power.

He was born at a place called *Pen-Hall*, in the Parish of *Ennery*, in the County of *Cornwall*, and baptized according to the manner and custom of the Church of *England*, the four and twentieth day of the Moneth called *July*, 1644, and his Education was according to his Quality in degree in the *Protestant Religion*, in which he continued until it pleased the Lord to call him by his Grace to reveal his Son in him, which was about the year 1666. at which time the Lord sent Messengers into those parts, to make known the Way of Salvation, and to turn People from Darkness unto the Light of Life, and from the Power of Satan unto God, whose Testimony he received and closed with, and like *Ephraim* did lament his mis-spent time under a Form of Godliness, without the Power of it, saying, *What have I to do anymore with Idols?* and did then even joyn himself to the Lord, and his People, as in a perpetual Covenant that can never be broken; he was brought into deep Humility, and sat down in silence in the Assemblies of God's People for severall Years, in Tenderneſs, Fear and Trembling, waiting upon the Lord for that Wisdom which is from above, being fully perswaded that when the World by Wisdom knew not God, then it pleased the Lord by the foolishness of Preaching,

Thomas Salthouse's Testimony

ing to save them that did believe: And his Faith stood in Gods Power, and not in the Words which mans Wisdom teacheth; and sometimes when his Heart was affected and filled with the Power of the Lord, he would in much tenderness drop a sentence or two in a Meeting, which was received and accepted (as five words to Edification) and approved of more than ten Thousand in an unknown Tongue; and though his presence was Contemptible among the *Rulers, Rabbies, Orators and Disputers* of the *World*, his Testimony was made powerful to many in his latter days, as may appear by a few living Witnesses, who have left their Testimonies to be recorded to future Generations, and they are here with presented to thy view in this small Volume.

He had a gift for the Work of the Ministry, and did improve it with great diligence, and for about six years he travelled frequently from County to County, and from City to City, and visited most of the Meetings of Friends in several Counties in *England* and *Wales*, and was receiv'd without any other Recommendation than the Life and Power which he appeared and preached among them, to their Refreshment and Confirmation in the Truth; and at his Return from his Travels he fell diligently to his Occupation (by which he was a Taylor) for the better accomodation of his Family. He was much pressed in spirit to Travel, and freely offer up his weak Body to spend and be spent in the labour of the Gospel, and was as careful of his time as if he had seen the shadows of the Evening stretched out. He was sharp and severe in his Testimony against Apostates and Back-sliders, and pressed People to the Spirit and Power of Godliness, and Life of Religion. He hath left several Manuscripts behind him, which at the earnest Request and Importunity of several his Friends, are now made publick, and though he be dead, they speak the

the same things that were often uttered and expressed by him in the Assemblies of Gods People, and now are put forth to open view, that Precept may be upon Precept, and Line upon Line.

In the first Moneth, call'd *March*, 1680. in his Travels from Meeting to Meeting (having been weak for some Moneths before) he was taken very sick at *Pool* in *Dorsetshire*, from whence he wrote an Epistle, which hereafter follows, and that Sickness continued about six or seven weeks, and having recovered a little strength he was desirous to have seen his Native Country, small Children and near Relations in *Cornwall*, and in order thereunto he travelled through much weakness to *Topsam*, where he was gladly received and courteously entertained among Friends there; but after a few days travelled Westward about ten Miles, to a place call'd *Glampes*, near *Mourton* in *Devonshire*, and there he fell into a Relapse, where he finished his Testimony and slept with his Fathers the 15th day of the 3d Moneth, 1680. and is entred into Rest from his Labours, and his Works follow, and his Reward is with him, being an Inherent among them that are sanctified by Faith in Christ Jesus.

His dead Body was accompanied with many good Friends, about twenty four Miles thro' the Country to *Kings-bridge*, where he was buried the 18th day of the said 3d Moneth, call'd *May*, his mournful Widdow and many Friends from several parts of *Dorsetshire*, were at his Burial, where a living Testimony was given, and words of Eternal Life preached, to the comfort and satisfaction of the great Concourse of People that did accompany him to his Grave. And this is given forth by an Eye Witness of his Service and Travels in his Life time, and of his return to his long Home, and of his Christian Burial, and is with the following living Testimonies (*Christian Reader*) recommended to thy charitable Consideration, by *A Lover of Truth, and Servant of the best Reformed Church of the first-Born*

*Austle* in *Cornwall*, the  
25th day of the first  
Moneth, 1682.

Thomas Salehouse.

*A true Testimony concerning the Life and blessed End of that  
faithful Servant and Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ,*

**RICHARD SAMBLE.**

*Dear Friends;*

**S**hall Dayes or length of Time wear out the Memorial  
of our beloved Friend and Brother, *Richard Samble*,  
whose frequent Labours and Travails in the heavenly  
Power and Spirit of the Lord God, was truly known to a  
Remnant; and truly I can say, his Life still remains with  
us, and my Soul is refreshed in the sweet favour of it, and  
though he be dead it speaketh, and a Declaration of his  
righteous Works, which by the Power of the Lord he  
wrought in his day, they are written in lively Characters  
in my Heart, far beyond what at this time I can declare  
of, or concerning this good Man; but this I can say from  
a true Experience, *That he sought the Propagation of Truth,*  
and the Exaltation of it more than his necessary Food; and all  
things to him were but as Dung and Dross in comparison  
of it, who did spend and was spent for it, and passed  
through many Trials and deep Exercises, and great Con-  
flicts in Spirit with outward and inward Enemies, in  
his day: Oh! my Soul is very sensible of it, who have  
heard his secret bemoanings concerning the Power of  
Darkness in darkned bewildred Spirits, who had lost their  
first Love, how it wrought against his Life both secretly  
and openly, but the Lord preserv'd him from the Dragon,  
and from his flood of Malice and Envy, and from all his  
secret smitings, the Lord kept him in safety, and it did not  
hurt his Life; and though the sence of it would seem to  
wound his Soul, yet the Lord after he had given him a true  
sight of the secret workings of the Enemy against him,  
did remove the burthen from him, and caused it to rest  
upon

upon his Enemies; and because of their violence against him shame shall cover their faces, and their Mountain must be laid waste to the Dragons of the Wilderness, except they repent: And it was neither Power nor Policy, nor yet Incantments that could prevail against him; for he was born of the Immortal and Incorruptible Seed of God, and was of *Jacob's Seed* and *Israel's Offspring*, and could truly declare of the Wonders of the Lord which he had seen in the Land of *Egypt*, and the Red-Sea, and was very intelligible in his Message and Ministry to a Remnant, unto whom he did not shun to declare the counsel of God, as the Lord required it of him, who came not forth with the enticing words of man's Wisdom, but in Weakness, and Fear, and much Trembling; and the Travail of his Soul was, that Peoples Faith might stand in the Power of the living God, and that we might be buik up, and firmly established in the Truth, as it was in Jesus, and that we might not sit down at ease in the flesh, as a people unconcerned; but that we might all be quickened together by the Spirit of the living God, and to feel a godly concern upon our Souls, for the propagation of the precious Truth of God in the Earth: For these things, and the finishing of the New Creation in Righteousness, more freely his soul travelled through many Exercises, and the extendings and flowings of Life from God upon his Spirit made the Yoke easie and the Burthen light; and having an Eye opened in the living Faith, he saw beyond streights and hardships, to that endless Life and eternal Rest with God in the spirit: Oh! the sweet savour of his Life is upon my spirit; and truly I can say, that he was faithful to the Lord in his day, according to the measure and portion of Faith given him, he adorned his Testimony by a circumspect Life, he was very temperate, and his Table was not a snare unto him; but all things were sanctified to him in the fear of the Lord, and sweet savour of

**J. Shillson's Testimony concerning R. S.**

of the Life of Jesus his Lord and Master, who was his *Shield and Buckler*, his *Rock and strong Tower*, in which and by which he hath been preserved, and hath now finished his *Testimony* for the Lord, and is returned to the Antient of Days, unto God the Judge of quick and dead, and is fate down with *Abraham, Isaac and Jacob* in the glorious Kingdom of the Eternal God, where his Name shall not be blotted out of the Lamb's Book of Life, neither shall his Memorial perish from Generation to Generation; for he hath been a sweet favour unto the Lord and his People, and Instrumental in his hand for the convincing of many who have been turned from Darkness to the true Light, and from the Power of Satan to the Power of God; he dwelt in great poverty of Spirit, and was not high-minded, but feared the Lord.

Thus, *Friends*, it was in my Heart to give in this short *Testimony* concerning the Labour and Travail of this *Faithful Servant of God*, who dyed in the Lord, and his Works do follow him, and is come to the Spirits of just men made perfect, with them to partake of the *Eternal Glory and Riches* of that Life in God which hath *No End*.

Plymouth, the 30th of the  
5th Month, 1680.

**JOHN SHILLSON.**

with an eye opened in the living Faith, he saw beyond  
righteous and hardships to the endless Life and eternal  
Rest with God in the future: Oh! the sweet labour to his  
sinner upon my spirit; and truly I can say, that he was  
kindled to life in his day, as he was to the morning  
and portion of Faith given him, he showed his Testimo-  
ny by a circumspice Life, he was very temperate, and his  
table was not a great one, but all things were con-  
fessed to him in the fear of the Lord, and sweet favour



*A Testimony concerning that faithful Servant of the Lord,  
Richard Samble.*

**A**S concerning this my very dear Friend, this *Testimony* lives upon my i<sup>s</sup>pirit to bear, That he was a man ever since I had any knowledge of him (which was nigh eight years) truly fearing the living God in his generation ; for the Lord was pleased to give him a large measure of his Grace, by which he was not only taught to *deny Ungodliness and worldly Lusts* in himself, but in and through the effectual operation of the same, was he enabled and made Instrumental in the hand of the Lord for the turning of many from *Darkness to Light, & from the Power of Satan unto God*, and likewise for the *watering and refreshing* of the young and tender, and for the *building up and establishing* of many in that *Faith which works by love, and really gives Victory over the World and its Spirit* ; and so in the strength of the Lord was he made willing to travel up and down this Nation of *England*, to declare *freely what he had freely received from the Lord*, and in and through that heavenly Power which accompanied him in his *Testimony*, hath my soul been often refreshed, and very serviceable he was in the hand of the Lord unto me and many others of our Meeting, he coming amongst us when we were very newly convinced ; yea, and several were convinced by him, and he having a real sence of that tenderness that was in many, he was made willing in the *love of the Lord*, often to visit us, not only when quiet, but likewise when persecuted and disturbed, so as I may truly say (with many others) *He was unto us as a Nursing Father, never sparing his labour, though many times through much difficulty to visit us*, but was with many both in Season and out of Season, *Reproving, Rebuking and Exhorting some, and Comforting and Confirming others* in and through that heavenly Power which accompanied him,



and confident I am, rather than in coming short of bearing a faithful Testimony to the Truth, according to that gift the Lord bestowed upon him, he went beyond it, as to the strength of his outward Man, which caused great weakness of Body many times (as mine Eyes have often seen) so as its very evident he spared not his life even to the end of his days, but was made willing to serve the Lord *with all his Heart, with all his Soul, with all his Mind, and with all his Strength*; for he often did both labour and travail night and day that he might faithfully discharge his duty to God, and was willing both to spend and be spent in the service of the Lord, and for his Gospels sake. And now though the Lord hath been pleased to take from me this my dear Friend, as to his outward man, yet have I still sweet fellowship and unity with him in that invisible Life (he was in the *Love of the Lord*) largely made partaker of, and in a deep sence of the same can I say, tho' he is dead, yet speaketh, and his Memorial shall never be forgotten; and the sweet Counsel I have often had from His Mouth many a time, is fresh in my remembrance; and now I am fully satisfied that he is entred into the full enjoyment of that *rest, peace and joy* with the Lord which he had formerly but a taste or earnest of, which is the *Reward* the Lord God of *endless Life and Love* hath in store for all who continue faithful to the end of their days; and now is he freed from all *labour and travail*, from all *Exercises, Tryals and Sufferings*, and from all the *Temptations and subtil cunning Insinuations* of the Devil, that old Destroyer of Souls, and is entred into that everlasting Habitation where he hath a *Building with God, a House not made with hands, but Eternal in the Heavens*.

And now, I cannot but even cry unto the Lord, that he would be pleased to pour down the like measure of his Spirit upon more of his tender Children and Servants, that thereby they may be likewise serviceable in his hand  
for

for the turning of many from Darkness unto Light, and from the Power of Satan unto God; and this is that my soul, even in secret many times, breathes to the Lord for, and I question not at all, but that he will be pleased to raise up and send abroad yet more and more painful Labourers, and make them willing to run to and fro, *that Knowledge may be increased, yea, that the Knowledge of the Lord may cover the Earth as the Waters cover the Sea*: This is that blessed and glorious Work which our God hath begun in this our Age and Day, and his Determination is to prosper it; in a living sense whereof am I engaged to return unto him pure Praises over all forever and for evermore.

Rosforrow, the 10<sup>th</sup> of the }  
7<sup>th</sup> Month, 1680.

John Peters.

**I**T was the Lords faithful Promise to the Righteous of all Ages, *That they should be had in Everlasting Remembrance, and that their Memorial should be blessed*: And that Faithfulness of him that hath promised, hath made many come forth, as *Moses* of old did rather chuse to suffer Affliction with Gods People, knowing that they have here no continuing City, and can enjoy the Pleasures of this Life but a season. Among which Number of faithful Followers of the Lamb, we might account our dear Friend *Richard Samble*, who from our first knowledge of him, to the determination of his days upon the Earth, was readily given up in the Lords service: From a sense of that Life which did frequently run thorow him, we can say, that the Lord did open his Lips, while his Mouth did shew forth his Praise. Transgressors did he instruct in the way of Truth, and Sinners, to turn unto the Lord;

*Falmouth Friends Testimony concerning R. S.*

Lord ; and he shines as a Star in the Firmament, because he turned many to Righteousness. He was fitted for the Work of the Ministry, being endued with Power from on High, by which Power he laboured as if he had a sense of the short Continuance of his time here ; so frequent and quick was he in his Travels, so forward in his Service, and now in faithfulness hath finished his Testimony, the Lord having taken him to himself, where a Crown of *Glory* (no doubt) attends him, and he lives above the Rage of his Enemies.

And this Testimony were we obliged to give concerning him, seeing his Habitation was amongst us ; and though his Service was more general, yet was his Company most frequently with us, whereby we became Witnesses of his Innocent and Exemplary Conversation, which was indeed lovely and serviceable : The Lord encrease the Number of his faithful Followers and Ministers, is our hearty desire, who wish well unto all men.

From our Meeting at Falmouth,  
the 15th of the 5th Moneth,  
1680.

*Signed in behalf of the said Meeting, by us,*

John Scantlebury,  
John Tregellas.

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**A Testimony for my dear Husband,**  
**Richard Samble.**

**T**His can I give for him, That since I have been his Wife, which was nigh twelve years, I do not remember that ever I heard an unfavoury word come from his Mouth, but true contentment appeared in him in every Condition, and exhorting me and his Children to live in Gods fear; for that was the desire of his Soal, and the travail of his Life; for I can truly say, that he was made willing in his day and time to spend and be spent for God's Truth and Church's sake; for since that the Lord was pleased to joyn our Hearts together, how well could we sit down and tell of the wonderous Works of the Lord towards us, in bringing of us out of the Evil of our Wayes, which we once lived in; for he was freely given up to serve the Lord in faithfulness to the end of his dayes; for he did spend his dayes in the work and service of the Lord, whether at home or abroad: His Delight was to do the Will of his God; for he was a dear Lover of God, his Truth and People. In his last Sicknes, where the Lord was pleased to separate us, he lay very weak in Body, but strong in the Lord. The day before he departed he called for me, and said, *Oh! my dear Wife, come hither to me, and let me take thee in my Arms once more, and the Lord will be to thee a Husband, and a Father to our little Children, as thou abidest faithful to the Lord.* Then after a few words to me he prayed a long time, even as long as Life could last, praising and magnifying the Lord; then did I see that  
he

J. Sambles Testimony concerning R. S.

~~he should be taken from me~~; Oh! it was so hard a thing to part with so good and loving Husband, it even weighed me down; then did I cry to the Lord for strength to undergo that great Exercise; and the Lord appeared for me, and gave me strength to undergo with Patience that great Tryal which he was pleased to try me with; and in this was my Satisfaction, *That he dyed the DEATH of the RIGHTEOUS, and hath received the REWARD of the FAITHFUL.*

Jane Samble.

There

**T**Here is something that lives in my Heart,  
as a Testimony for my dear Friend and  
Brother *Richard Samble*; he was an innocent man,  
and sought the Wellfare of all Gods People in  
the Truth; He was greatly endued with Power  
from God, and in that Gift which God gave him  
he was faithful thereunto, and his Labour and  
Travail in the Work and Service of God was  
many times very great; and he was wholly  
given up to spend, and to be spent for the Gospel  
sake; He was an upright tender-hearted man,  
and sought the prosperity of all Friends every  
where; and when he hath met with any thing  
in his way that was not for the prosperity of  
Truth among Friends, how hath he laboured in  
the strength and power of the Lord to see it re-  
moved out of the way: And there are many  
living Witnesses (alive in the body) of that power-  
ful Word of Life that went with him against that  
Spirit that is gone into the false Liberty, and hath  
left the Cross of Christ Jesus behind them. And  
Oh! how sweet was his Testimony unto the He-  
ritage of the Lord, unto the honest hearted, that  
loves the Truth as it is in Jesus: Oh! my Soul  
can say in a deep sence of the Love of God, That  
I have lost my dear and near Friend, whose Love

to each other was united by the Lord, and therefore it lives very freshly in my Heart to give in my Testimony, with the rest of my Brethren, that he was a man clean and unspotted of the World, which lived in Gods Power, and dyed in the same, which is his Peace, and will be his Crown for evermore.

*WILLIAM TRETHOWAN.*

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**FRIENDS;**

**I**N the sence of Gods Love, and in the melting Power of the same do I give in my Mite and Testimony, as one of the least among you, for our dear and faithful Friend and Brother *Richard Samble*, That he was a chosen Vessel, fitted and prepared for the Work of the Lord, and laboured faithfully among us, and though he be dead, yet he lives in the Hearts of many, and is a sweet savour, and will be to Generations to come.

*ANNE NEWMAN.*



**A** Few things have lived in me which I give as a Testimony for our dear. deceased Friend and Brother *Richard Samble*; when he was in the Body many were the Exercises he past through, which now the Lord hath put an end to them all: Oh! now is he at his desired Rest, where all Tears are wiped away, and fullness of Joy and Everlasting Comfort is his Portion: He was a man that I did well know, his Life and Conversation was such, as I am very sure the Lord did well approve of: He was a man of a very meek Spirit, and of a loving Disposition, always ready and willing to give a helping hand to the weak ones, to such as had any desires begotten in their Hearts after the Truth of God, of such he was tender over; and if at any time Differences should arise amongst God's People, he then with abundance of diligence laboured to perswade them all to be reconciled to one another, that thereby Gods Truth might have its operation in and over the Hearts of all. But when he met with such as made a Profession of Truth, and would not bow their Necks to the Yoke and walk in the Cross of Christ, against such he was very ready to bear a Testimony, and to warn all such that whilst they had yet time they might Return

to the Lord, that their Souls might live; but such as were resolved to continue in their Disobedience, would refuse and hear none of his counsel, but reject it, though it were God's Love to them; much might be said concerning these things, which this Servant of the Lord did meet with; but the Lord's Love did accompany him, that not one of Truth's Enemies could justly have any thing to lay to his charge; for he walked unspotted before all men. A little while before his Departure, as he lay on his Bed, being very weak in Body, I heard him say how well it was with him that he did give up to the Lords Requirings, to spend and be spent for the Churches sake; for as he said, he knew his time was but short, and Labours, Travels and Exercises would have their End, and be no more. Many more were the Sweet and heavenly Sayings, in abundance of Tenderness, with the Tears running over his Cheeks, which in the beholding of it was a great satisfaction to Friends that came to visit him.

*EDWARD BEALING.*

**A**S for our dear Friend *Richard Samble*, there is a Testimony lives in my Heart for him; He was a man that was really given up in his day to do the Work of the Lord; and truly, as for my part, I can truly say, That living Testimony of Life and Power that lived in him, hath often refreshed my Heart, and in the sence of the same, hath oft-times lived on my Spirit, to the great Refreshment of my Immortal Soul, which hath caused me to rejoyce; for I can truly say, that first when he had a Testimony for Truth, and went abroad among Friends, I then went with him, *Oh! how the living fresh Presence of the Lords Power was with him*, tho' as to the outward, he looked to some but contemptible; but the Lords Power preserved him, and carried him on to do that Work the Lord had for him to do; and he was a faithful Labourer in Gods Vineyard, and did turn many to God by that living Testimony of Life that lived in his heart; and also it was his delight to do his Masters Will; and he did not look to any hardship, but his desire was to do that Work his Lord & Master sent him about; and many were the breathings of his life and soul to God, for all those that were seeking the way to Sion, with their faces thither-ward, that they might be preserved in that blessed way that leadeth to Gods Everlasting Kingdom, where is Peace and Joy forever and for evermore.

**STEPHEN RICHARDS.**

**FRIENDS;**

**T**Here is a few Words live in my Heart,  
as a Testimony for our dear Friend Richard  
Samble, which is this, That he was a man greatly  
endued with the living Power and Presence of the  
Lord God, by which he was made an able Minister  
of the Gospel; and indeed knew how to divide the  
Word aright; and he was a man wholly given up in  
the Work and Service of the Lord; and it was great  
Joy to him to see the Work of the Lord to go on and  
prosper; and it is my Faith to believe, that though  
the Lord hath been so pleased to take him from us unto  
himself, that the many sweet and heavenly Opportu-  
nities which the Lord hath afforded us together, and  
the living sence of that Life and heavenly Power which  
did attend him, will forever live in many Hearts.

**ABIGAIL SHEPHERD.**



**A Letter**

STEPHEN RICHARDS

A  
Letter of Love

TO THE <sup>F. L. 630 Vol II</sup>  
True Begotten Children,  
Who are born again of the *Seed Immortal*,  
Every where.

UNTO you all doth the Salutation of my tender Love reach, with whom my Life is bound up in the indereared Fellowship of the Saints in Light, with you who feel the divine Virtue and Life of the Seed, and enjoy the heavenly Showers of the Blessing of God, whereby you are made as a well watered Garden, and blessed from season to season, and are become fruitful in the Earth, being Children of the right Seed, and planted in the holy Hill of *Sion*, where you may always grow and shoot forth your Branches, and bear Fruit from Year to Year; and truly the Breathings of my Life to God is for you all, that as the planting hath been wholly of the right Seed, so the growth may be of the same, that we may always be enlarged in the Grace of God, and Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, seeing the Ancient Love of God hath reached to us, who hath quickened us, and raised us up that were dead in Sins and Trespases, and had forgotten the Lord, and knew not his Outgoings, but were erring and straying from his Way, like lost Sheep amongst the Mountains, till his outstretched Arm of Power reached to us, and his eternal Word awakened our Souls out of the deep sleep of Sin and Ignorance, and gave us a sight of our undone estate, and how we were in the Earth, in the driven-out state of the first *Adam* (from God) and

how we were bearing the Image of the earthly, in the corruptions of old *Adam*, in whom all dye, and Death comes over all men (in him) because all in him are sinful; and this was our condition being under the Wrath of God, and his fierce Anger, until Christ, the heavenly Man appeared, who is the brightness of the Father's Glory, who only hath Life and Immortality, dwelling in eternal Light and in eternal Brightness, who is the Seed that's Incorruptible, and the Word that lives and abides forever, at the BRIGHTNESS of whose COMING and powerful Appearance, the Clouds and Vail were Rent, the Graves were opened, the dead were raised, and by his heavenly Voice the Heavens and Earth were shaken, and the Pillars thereof made to tremble, and old things passed away, and all things became new; for a new Creation God hath brought forth by his eternal Power, which is holy and pure, and Righteousness forever must dwell in it; and the Lord is bringing his Sons from far, and his Daughters from the ends of the Earth, to dwell in a quiet Habitation, and to inherit this good Land, where the Heavens rain down Dew, and the Earth brings forth Righteousness, where the Captivity of the Captives is returned, and they that were bound in the Prison-house of Darkness are delivered, and the seed of *Jacob* brought up out of the Pit wherein was no Water.

Oh! my Friends, how can we forget the Day of the Lords Love, who appeared to us, and did arise for us, to satisfy us; and fill our hungry and thirsty Souls, when a Famine was over us, of want and great scarcity of the Salvation of God; we did not know his Grace to teach us, and therefore were in Ungodliness, and not walking in the fear of God in Righteousness and Holiness in this present World: And here was our state, in want from day to day, of that which should bring true Comfort to our Souls, and nothing but Death was before us (the Pit of Perdition, out of which there is no Redemption, from whence fears and doubts came, and daily trouble upon every hand, being bound under great Affliction with the chain of Sin, shut up in Darkness, as tho' with the old Apostates and those that were Enemies to God, who forgot him, and did despightfully turn from him, and rebelled against his holy Spirit) we were sealed for Destruction, and with the Wicked in *Sodom* and *Gomorrhah*, to be set forth as Examples, suffering the Vengeance of Eternal Fire, and with the Rebellious Christians, that turned from Gods Grace into Wantonness, who

were comf

were to be reserved unto Judgment, under Chains of Darkneſs with the fallen Angels. So here we were in this horrible Pit of Miſery, lamenting and bewailing our ſelves, ſometimes out of all hopes of ever getting forth, ready to ſink into perpetual Diſpair, and near to periſh both Body and Soul. Oh! how can my Soul forget this Day! a Day of Love indeed (unſpeakable) which the Lord appeared in, in ſuch a needful time, who ſent a Saviour and a great one, even the Seed of the Covenant, where all the holy precious Promiſes are hid, yea, from the Eyes of the Wiſe and Prudent, and opened and revealed to Babes and Sucklings, who are born of the Immortal Seed, who hath all Power in Heaven and in Earth, who binds and caſts out the ſtrong man (the old man of ſin) with his deceitful Luſts, and puts down his Rule, Authority and Power under his feet; for he hath uſurp't his Power over Mankind, and deceitfully gotten into the hearts of the Children of men, and rules in none but they that are Rebellious againſt God, in the hearts of the Children of Diſobedience; which old deceitful man of Sin, that deſtroys the Creation, and deſiles the Temple of God, him will God deſtroy: And though he may plead Antiquity of his ſinful Actions and Deeds, & old corruptible Cuſtoms, yet his old Age is found in the way of Wickedneſs, and is to be abhorred; and a Remnant are come to loath him, and put him off, with all his deceitful Luſts, and have put on the new man, which is clean and holy in all things, and pure before God the Father; and ſo the old ſinful man, he is the Prince of this World that rules in Darkneſs, which oppreſſes the Heritage of God, and ſeeks to deſtroy it; but now is his Judgment come, and God hath determined his Overthrow; and his day is paſſing away, and it ſhall come to paſs, that Time to him ſhall be no longer, but to the Lake he muſt go, where his Portion is for evermore.

Oh! the unſpeakable Love of God to loſt man, who from the beginning hath ordained a Seed for his Recovery out of ſo great a Miſery and Deſolation; yea, from ſo great a Death, which was over us, as well as others; ſo that we may well ſay, Behold, what manner of Love is this wherewith the Father hath loved us! that we ſhould be call'd the Sons of God, and that we ſhould be brought to a ſight and ſenſe of the Appearance of the Son of Righteouſneſs, who is the Light of the World: I ſay, we that were in Darkneſs, but up in unbelief concerning his ſpiritual appearance, and ſhining comfortably upon our Souls; Oh! his Light ſhined in Darkneſs,



but we being darkned, from our dark lost Minds, and by our unregenerate fallen Wisdom, could not comprehend it, till our Eyes were opened, and the Scales fallen off them, we could not see him; till we felt his working by his Spirit in our hearts, we did not know him; till he opened our hearts and ears, we could not believe it was he, but when he so graciously appeared to help our distressed Souls in the day of our Distress, and lifted up our heads out of the low Dungeon, we could not chuse but own him, and confess him before men, though through Mockings, Scoffings, Persecutions and many Tryals; and though we were persecuted, yet he did not forsake us; though we were chastized, yet were not killed; and though cast down, yet he kept us from being destroyed: Oh! how can we forget so great a Love! who when we were in Death brought us to Life; so that we can tell of his wonderful Works: Surely oft-times it lives in my Heart to speak of the great goodness of the Lord, who pitied my Soul in the day of Distress, and not mine only, but many more, when we were separated from our God: When the blackness of the Night cover'd us, and the sence of an everlasting Separated estate from God seized upon us, we went daily mourning without the Sun, our Candle did not shine, our day was not dawned, we were shut up in the Womb of the dark night of Apostacy, where God is forgotten, and his wonderful Works not known; we had even sinn'd out our day; the thoughts of the Grave, and going out of this mortal Life, was the opening of a Flood-gate of perpetual Sorrows, to let in everlasting Punishment upon us: Oh! this was a day of sore Tryal and deep Mourning! Can a Remnant forget the Lord, who appeared to their comfort in the time of Grief and desperate Sorrow, who were like Doves of the Valley, every one mourning for the loss of his Beloved, crying out in the Night because of Fears, and in the day-time very heavy, and the countenance and beauty passed away, and the Sun, as it were, went down at Noon. And as we considered the blessed estate of the Church in time past, and the Soul-satisfaction which they enjoy'd, when they did eat their Bread with joy and singleness of heart, we were then ready to say, as they of old that wept when they remembered *Sion*, being in a strange Land, hanging their Harps upon the Willows, by the Rivers of *Babylon*, saying, *How can we sing the Songs of the Lord in a strange Land?* who were like to perish under the hand of the Enemy, and ready to say in the day of our Distress

*We should not see the Lord in the Land of the Living.* This was our State and Condition when the Lord first found us, when we had lost our selves, and were darkened from the Knowledge of the way of Salvation, then did he cause his day to dawn, and the Son of his eternal Love to arise upon us, and shined forth in its beauty and excellency through the dark Clouds of the Night, which caused the Night to pass away, and the old Deformity to withdraw, and all unsettled old corruptible Buildings and Foundations to be turned upside down, and the Foundation of God appeared, the sure and certain Rock of Ages, which stands sure unto all Generations that seek the Lord and obey him, who hath Mercy in store for Thousands that keep his Commandments; so the Workmanship of God was seen, that which he had brought forth by his eternal Word, (that was with him before the World was) into a good frame and order; and all was good in the day of the pure Appearance of the Power of the Lord; And here was true Joy and Comfort. Indeed the Sick were healed, the Blind did see, the Deaf did hear, the Lame did walk, the Lepers were cleansed of that plague of Leprosie which putrified their hearts, and made their Souls unclean; and I may say of a truth, the Morning Stars did sing together, and all the Sons of God shouted for Joy, and the Trees of the Field did clap their hands; for the Lord God had planted and watered his Creation with the Dew of Heaven, and the Wilderness and Solitary places were glad, and the Desert did flourish and blossom like a Rose: And now after a time of great Distress and Calamity, & seeking the living among the dead, and the living Body (the true Church) amongst the Graves & dry Bones, a Remnant through the mercy of God are come up out of their Graves; and have seen the day of the Lord, and found the beloved of their Souls, the chiefest of ten thousands, who is the Searcher of Hearts and Tryer of Reigns, whose Voice reacheth to the great deep, to bring up and restore them to God, that the Grave and Sea of Wickedness had cover'd and overwhelm'd; and a People are now come to arise out of Death and Darkness, to the Resurrection of Life, even the first Resurrection; though they were dead, yet are now alive, and so living in the Faith shall never dye, but in Christ Jesus the Resurrection and Life, shall have their part and portion, which shall stand sure forever, on whom the second Death shall have no power, but they alone shall have, with the redeemed Ones, a white Stone and new Name, which

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none knows but they that receive it, which is given only to the Children of the Immortal Seed, who are of the Faith of *Abraham*, who leave all for Christs sake, who by his glorious Appearance rends the Clouds and breaks down the Mountains of Sin, and treads upon the high places, and bowed and subjected our hearts to himself, by the heavenly means of Salvation, which is in him, who took away the stony Heart out of our Flesh; and its he that cleanseth the inside, and washeth the Body with pure Water, and sprinkles the Mind from an evil Conscience; so he rends the Vail and destroyes the face of the Covering, and purifieth and purgeth his Temple, and makes it fit for the appearance of his own Glory, that he may dwell in it, and walk in it; for the time is come, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and God; the Judge of all, is come, and Jesus the Mediator, and he hath brought a Remnant to his holy Mountain, even the Mount *Sion*, the City of the living God, who are come to the general Assembly and Church of the first born, written in Heaven, and to the Spirits of just and perfect men, where all the Discoveries of God are truly owned from the beginning of the World, under every Dispensation, where the primitive Christians sate together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, before the Apostacy, and where the Redeemed of the Lord sit together in these latter days, where they receive true Peace from the Lord God, which the World can neither give nor take away. So Christ Jesus, the Power of God is come to take the possession of his own, who hath been as a stranger in the Earth, and People have not known him, neither are they acquainted with the way of his Appearance, but have lost his Image, and forgotten him days without number; and false Prophets and false Christs have risen to rob Christ Jesus of his Glory, and have run when he hath not sent them; and Iniquity hath abounded, and Love hath decay'd, and the whole Christian World overcome with Sin and Wickedness, and Darkness hath covered the Earth, and gross Darkness the People; and amongst the uncertain blind Watch-men of the Night, who have lost the sight of all the Out-goings of the Lord, and see not any immediate Revelation, nor own any immediate Operation of God, and so have lost all that should stand by them against the Enemy of their Souls, and are ignorant of the true Faith, having lost the Principle of God; and the Vision of all is become to them as a sealed Book, which neither Professor nor Prophane can read; and such have been saying, *Lo here is Christ,*  
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and Lo he is there; and who shall ascend to bring him down from above; or who shall descend to bring him up from the dead? And to have been distracted in their Minds, as touching the Way of Life and Salvation; But the Lord in mercy hath gather'd us out from amongst them, and we cannot go after nor follow them; for we have found him whom we sought in the day of our sorrow, even Christ the Redeemer and Saviour of the World, yea, near unto us, in our own Hearts; so we come now to know the Riches of Gods Love in his Son, who is the Treasure and Riches of the Redeemed, in their Earthen Vessels. And truly this was a way which we knew not; for we sought him without amongst them that said, *Lo here,* and *Lo there;* but now the Lord hath lighted our Candle, and we are come to know a sweeping the Houfe, and with the Woman that found her lost piece, can rejoyce; so the Day of the Lord is come, and the Arm of his Power is revealed, and he is making war with his Enemies, & Christ Jesus must reign, whose right it is, and all Nations must serve and obey him, his Kingdom & Dominion is Everlasting, & of the Increase of his Government & Peace, there shall be no end, & his Servants must serve him, and shall rejoyce before him, who alone works deliverance for them, & placeth his fear in their hearts, so that they cannot depart from his Way, nor from following him, and worshipping him day and night in his Temple.

O Friends! how can we forget the day of our Espousals, when the Lord God brought us to be Members of that Church which he doth betroth to himself in Righteousness, in Lovingkindness, and in tender Mercies, and marrieth as a young man marrieth a Virgin, when our thirsty Souls drank of the Brooks by the way, and when we found Rivers opened in dry places, and Streams in the Desert, when the divine Glory of the Invisible God brake forth as an overflowing Fountain over us; This was a day of Joy indeed, the Lord was binding up, and healing the stroke of our wound, and bringing up our Souls to the Bosom of his Love, and laying open his tender Mercies to our view. Oh! what pleasant running was here! nothing too hard to go through that we might be sealed up in this everlasting Covenant of Peace, which God had set before us. Oh! the Call of the Lord is Holy, let us make it sure, that in the elected Seed of God we may daily feel our Souls centred, that the Gates of Hell may never prevail against us, and let us wait more and more to feel his Love spring in our hearts, that we may be inflam'd with a holy Zeal for his Everlasting Name, and

be valiant for the Truth upon the Earth; and as Gods Love hath reached to us, and hath made us Members of that Church of which Christ is Head, which the Lovingkindness of God shall never depart from; though the Hills and Mountains may be removed, let us keep still in the Oneness and endeared Unity and Fellowship as in the beginning, feeling the creating forming Power of the living God, who is able to fit, and frame, and fashion, according to his Will and Mind, and for his own Purpose, to his Glory; for every Member of this holy Body, of which Christ is head, is truly wrought upon and brought into subjection, and according to the degree of Grace received from him, is made serviceable in the Body; and so the Stream of Life goes through all, to replenish and enlarge it, in the Grace of God and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And so, *Friends*, let us remember the day when the Lord answered the Breathings of our souls in our first Visitation, when true Sighs and Groans did purely spring in our hearts, that we might be solaced in the bosome of our Beloved: And when heavenly Harmonies were heard within our Habitations, and returns of Praises to the Lord in the inward sense of his Love, who carried his Lambs in his Arms, and gently led them that were with young, and brought his People to *Sion* with Songs and everlasting Joy upon their Heads, when the Mourners that went about the Streets were comforted in their return to the Lord, and the heavy hearted were made truly to rejoyce. Oh! let us live in a daily subjection to the Lord God, in a sense and feeling of the Arm of his Salvation; that we may magnifie his great Name, beholding his wondrous Works, and seeing his goodness in the Land of the Living, that we may be ready at all times to report the good which God hath done for us, and tell it to our Children after us, that they may tell it to another Generation, that the Lord over all may be exalted, and that the Ages to come may delight to seek him, and serve and obey him; that their souls may live for evermore.

And so let all wait in the Light, with staid hearts and minds, to feel the Renewings of Gods love, whereby a daily support may be administered to them from the Lord; for there is, an Enemy that seeks the Death and Destruction of the Heritage of God; but in the Light all his Temptations and Snares are seen, and his crafty working in a Mystery this day, and the bruising Power of the Lord Jesus Christ goes over his head; and so the Serpent, the old Deceiver

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ceiver of Nations comes hereby to be kept down in the Death, and all his Inares and cunning, are discovered to them that keep low in Gods countenance, and they are the true born Children of the holy seed, who lie near to the Breasts of *Jerusalem*, and are born upon her sides, and dandled upon her knees, and so are growing in strength and wisdom, and they follow the Lamb whereloever he goes, because they are called, and chosen, and faithful, and they are armed by him, and fitted for the spiritual Warfair; and so go forth pulling down the Enemy's strong Holds, and bring down rebellious Thoughts and high Imaginations under the feet of Christ, through whom we come to be Conquerors, who loved us and gave himself for us, in whom our Life and Strength is, and without him we can do nothing; and seeing it is so, how ought every one of us to have our minds gathered to him, in his divine Light, that we may encrease in heavenly Wisdom and Understanding in this needful day, and be wise towards God, in feeling our daily preservation by his power and spirit; for it becomes us to be wise in the Wisdom that's from above, seeing many Eyes are set upon us for Evil, and we are as a City set upon a Hill that cannot be hid, and we are raised up by the Power of God, and quickened into the inward Knowledge of the Way of Life, and all the strong Powers of the Nations are set against us, and the Kings of the Earth are jealous that we seek an earthly Kingdom, and outward Thrones and Dignities; but the Lord knows (who hath redeemed us and saved our souls from everlasting death and misery) that we seek a Kingdom that's heavenly, and a City, whose builder and maker is God, and we are not to fight with carnal Weapons, or to kill with the Sword; for it hath been our Doctrine and Testimony from the beginning, *If we be smitten on the one Cheek, rather than smite again; turn the other also:* And herein we have denyed our selves of our own strength as men, and follow'd our Lord Jesus Christ, whose pure peaceable Lamb-like spirit leads out of Wars and Fightings (which come from the envious Lusts of the Flesh) into the everlasting Covenant of Peace, where Pride and vain Glory comes to an end, and Covetousness, Self-seeking Honour and worldly Interest ceaseth, where true Love ariseth to the whole Creation, and that antient saying of the Prophet is fulfill'd, *They shall beat their Swords into Plow-shares, and their Spears into Pruning-hooks, and shall learn War no more.* And herein we have found the Lord near at hand to be a present help in the time of



need, and many sweet Deliverances our God hath wrought for us, when we have been encountered with Enemies on the right hand and on the left, and hath defended us and preserved our innocent cause, when men rise up against us; so that we may well say, *If the Lord had not been on our side, they had swallowed us up quick.*

Therefore let us fear him, and wait upon him with Reverence, and serve him in the feeling of his blessed Power, and know his Arm to fold us in, that our Hearts may never conceive any false Birth, or that which lusts after evil things, whereby we may be darkened from the sight of the spring of our first Love, but that we may always keep in our remembrance the great Work that God did for us in the day of our first Visitation, lest the old Enemy should get a place again, & work in the forgetfulness of the Heart, that once felt the Power and quickening Life of Jesus Christ, and so go back again from following the Lord, as old *Israel* did, when they came out of *Egypt*, and after God brought them up out of the Sea with the Shepherds of his Flock, and put his holy Spirit within them, and led them through the Deep, as in the Wilderness, to get himself a glorious Name, who went back again in their Hearts after the Leeks and Onions, and Garlick, and Flesh-pots of *Egypt*; and when the Devil could not overcome them by the strength and power of the Kings of the Nations, nor by the Inchantments of *Balaam*, (who could find no Inchantment for *Jacob*, nor any Divination for *Israel*) afterwards sought more privately to bring his design to pass, and so brought a great Desolation upon that People, and led them to rebel against God, who did wonders for them in *Egypt*, and in the Land of *Ham*, and terrible things by the red Sea, yet when they turn'd away their Hearts from following the Lord, thousands of them perished, and were overthrown in the Wilderness, and that Power and Arm of God that brought them out of *Egypt* destroyed them, because they rebelled against him, and waited not for the guidance of his holy Spirit, and kept not low in his Counsel to know his farther determination concerning them, but gave themselves up to hardness of Heart, and so lost that understanding which once God had given them, and so made themselves gods, and sate down to eat and drink, and rose up to play, and so lost their Integrity and Faithfulness to the Lord: and *Corah* gain-said the Power of God, and the discovery of his Will and Mind in the dispensation of the Law, and discerned it not from



from a golden Calf, and thousands were cut off by the Hand of the Lord; and great havock did the Enemy make of that People when he got place amongst them, and through his subtilty brought them to Desolation; and the rest of that Generation that dyed not immediately, wasted away, till there was not a Man left of that evil Family. But notwithstanding the Lords Power wrought over all, and Truth and Righteousness did spring up in the midst of the Congregations afterward, yet the Enemy sought again to have a place, after they entred into the good Land, and the Walls of *Jerico* fell; then *Achan* with his *Babylonish* Garment and wedge of Gold, brought trouble upon all the People, and caused the Lord to hide his Face, and he went not with them to fight their Battels; but a great search was made through the Camp, and *Achan* was taken, and the trouble of *Israel* was removed. So the living God will remove all that trouble and disquiet his People, and set them by, and take them out of the way.

So dear Friends, let us learn more and more to know what God requires of us, and feel in our selves a daily subjection to the same, and not setting up our own Wills and Wisdoms, or go about the Lords work with the carnal mind, for that's enmity with God, and is not attended with his divine presence, neither is it subject to his holy Law; and hence it is that Strife and Contention ariseth, as in the Churches of Christ amongst the *Christians*, in the dayes of the Apostles, where the Devil again shewed himself as an Angel of Light, a seperate false Spirit, when the Church was in a heavenly frame and order, so that they that believed were of one Heart and one Mind; see how compleat they were in a convinced state, being in tendernefs and brokennefs of Heart before the Lord, in an intire love and unity in the Seed of God, growing as Willows by the Water-courses, and as Trees planted by the Rivers: Here they appeared in fruitfulness, being nourished by the living refreshing Streams of the love of God; and though they were encouptred with Enemies on every hand, yet they still did valiantly, until the enemy broke in upon them among themselves: And this hath been the way of the destroying Adversary from the beginning of the World, which might be largely spoken of, but its not with me at this time to enlarge, further than I feel a necessity upon me from the Lord, to clear my Conscience of those things that have

been before me, in my lying down, and in my rising up, and in my travel from place to place, knowing that you my Brethren and Sisters in the heavenly Relation, can see beyond Words, and how that old lying murdering Spirit hath risen with the twi-light from Age to Age, to kill his Neighbour, which the rebuking, judging, condemning Power of God will cast down, against which secret wounding Spirit the eternal decree is sealed. And so the *Mystery of Iniquity* began to work amongst the *Christians*, and many grew careless and negligent in the Service of the Lord; and (as Christ foretold) *An Enemy came while men slept, and sowed Tares amongst the Wheat, and went his way.* So amongst that very People, which profest the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Gospel of the Kingdom, this Enemy appeared. And so you may see how he hath endeavoured to corrupt People in the Service of God, and darken the true Worshipers, who have been gathered by the Lord, and tender in the day of their first Visitation; and then the testimony of the Apostle, was, *to try their Spirits, whether they be of God*, for many were growing careless, and forsaking the assembling themselves together, and corrupting themselves with the Societies of the World, and so lost their good Manners, and dyed to the Life of that Way and Principle which they profest, and became Enemies to the Cross of Christ, and fell into the error of *Balaam*, and perished in the gain-saying of *Korah*; who as the Magicians in Egypt withstood Moses, so do these men, saith the Apostle, *resist the Truth*; and as *Balaam* who had a sight of the goodly Tents of *Jacob*, and the pleasant dwelling place of *Israel*, yet lived not in the Life and Spirit of what he saw: And *Korah* that came out of *Egypt*, and saw the wonderful Works of God in the beginning, yet afterwards perished, in gain-saying what the Lord would have to be done: And this was the let and hinderance the Work of God met with amongst the *Christians*; and seeing that Spirit deceitfully coming in, which would decline Meetings, the Apostle exhorted to be faithful in the Service of Truth, *Not forsaking the assembling yourselves together, as the manner of some is.* So those which declined Meetings, left the service of God, and did not provoke one another to Love and good Works, for Darknes was coming over them; and so through their Negligence and Unfaithfulness in the service of Truth, came in the Apostacy: But the advice of the Apostle was, *To provoke to Love and good Works, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.* And

And so *Friends*, let us be faithful to God in his Work and Service, for we have daily cause of Joy and Comfort, because we see the Day approaching more and more; and the Lord is enlarging us in an inward understanding of the things of his Kingdom, and he doth open the Treasures of his Love unto us, and fills our Wells and Cisterns with living Water, so that we can drink abundantly: Oh! our God is abounding in his ancient kindness towards us, from day to day carrying on his little Ones, and bearing in his Arms the feeble of the Flock: And so let us dwell always low before him, and walk in the way of the appearance of his Glory, that we may know the lifting up the light of his Countenance upon us, and the Kisses of his Mouth, for his Love is better than Wine; and so shall we never faint, nor grow weary, but shall be blessed and prospered in all our Travails, and shall gain ground upon our Enemies, being still found watchful in the Light, which is a strong City indeed, *where Salvation is appointed for Walls and Bullwarks.* And while we abide and inhabit in the Light, we are preserved, and kept from falling; but such as go out of the Light, they stumble and fall, and lose themselves, and their inward conditions become miserable; for out of the Light there is no discerning of the secret wiles of the Enemy; neither can they, that abide not in the Light, see themselves as they are, and therefore some run into Pride, and fashion themselves according to the World, which is from a dark clouded Spirit that hath lost its Habitation, and is blind and ignorant, and sees not the glorious Image of the Truth, nor any beauty in a self-denying state, which if some had seen themselves, as clear as others that live in the immortal undefiled Life of Truth, do see them, they would have abominated those things which they do, and lothe and abhor themselves in Dust and Ashes: and for want of waiting in the Light, and feeling the spring of the Power of God to preserve them in contentedness, *where the Lord hath set them,* how have some run after a greedy covetous worldly Spirit, till they have brought the Earth over them, and either the cares of this Life, and deceitfulness of Riches have come over them on the one hand, or run themselves out of the Bounds of Honesty and Truth on the other hand, which some have done, and have brought themselves to Contempt and Shame amongst men; but the Lord will meet with all such in a day when they are not aware, and will appoint them

them their portion with the *Hypocrites, where there is Weeping, Waiting and gnashing of Teeth*, except they speedily Repent. So let us keep our Habitation in the heavenly Light, and appear in the Innocency of the Truth, so will the Blessing still rest upon us, and the presence of God will still attend us, and we shall be terrible as an Army with Banners, and the Lord will fight our Battles, and undertake for us, as he hath to this day, everlasting Praises to his Name. So let all watch and stand against the face of the Tempter, in the life of Truth; for where his secret inward earthly drawings take place, the Mind and Heart come to be stollen away from following the Lord, and his secret workings by degrees brings a Cloud over the understanding, and so the evil seed grows up in the enmity, and out of the pure innocent love, and naturally leads into coldness and deadness in serving God; and this draws by little and little into weariness in waiting upon him; and here the pure living Spring of Life that first broke the Heart into tenderness before the Lord, comes to be lost, and then the Creature comes to be unsettled, and all out of order; and this is a disquieted Spirit, that feels no peace with God, and will go off by degrees into the Earth, and create a Peace to its self; and such were they that run themselves off from the leadings of the Spirit into Sensuality, in times past, and so had the name of Wells, but had no Water in them, and Trees, but their Fruit withered: So where there is a declining the living Testimony, though there might be Fruit brought forth in times past, yet a Blast from God comes forth and blasts them; and the end hastens upon those Trees, that they must be cut down, and cast into the Fire, and every Branch in the Vine that decays and withers will be taken away: And so for want of watchfulness, dryness and barrenness comes in, and deceit grows by little and little; for the Enemy is secretly darkning the Understanding, and sitting in the Temple as a God, drawing from the living inward feeling of Life daily; here the Imaginations begin to work, and the false Conceptions of the Mind, in the likeness of something that hath a Name to live, and is dead, whereby the Creature is deceived, and the ill savour thereof putrifies and corrupts daily from the soundness and perfect walking with the Lord, and so loseth its life and settlement in the Vine, and grows dead to the immediate sense of the Will of God, and goes out of the general Fellowship and Unity of the universal Body, and so grows  
dead

dead through letting in Reasonings and Jealousies, (to the Service of the Truth) and becomes deformed, out of Joynt, having no nourishment from the Head, nor feeling the Bands of the Power of God, to keep and preserve them from breaking and withering, and so losing the living daily enjoyment of the pure opening Spring of Life, go out into the natural sensual Wisdom, and there acts and works, from the darkness of the Mind, that hath lost its true stay, and here Life is closed up from the understanding, and the Habitation of such comes to be within the reach of the Adversary, and he works them more and more into hardness and stubbornness, and into a high conceit of the Safety and Well-being, when in danger of Destruction; and this secret mysterious Enemy is passing through the Nations, persuing the Heritage of God from place to place, to bring it down into Death again, and to deform and draw it out of that heavenly Image which God hath placed it in; for the Devil always envied the Well-being of the People of the Lord, and seeks to draw first from the Power of Truth, and afterwards from the Form; for while the Power is retained, and the true Life felt and enjoyed, which is one in all, descending livingly and sweetly from the Head, into every Member; here all are lively and pliable, every Member in its place and order, tempered together: So that there is no Schism or Rent, or any Putrifaction or Dross, that's not melted and consumed in the Fire and Furnace of God; but all melted through the inward working of the Spirit of Judgment and Burning, into a compleat Body, fashioned and fitly framed by the Lord, whose searching Power goes through all, and so is supplied with Joynts and Bands, and is compleat in him who is the Head, (Christ Jesus) and these Members are alive to the Service of the Body; and this Body is not divided in it self, neither is two Hearts or Sprits ruling in it, neither is it serving two Masters, not God and Mammon, but God alone, and it hath made a blessed choice, having forsaken the World and all corruptible things, for the sake of Christ, who is nearer to it then any visible thing; and Life Eternal it seeks, and an assurance of Heaven's Kingdom, and nothing will stand it instead, but the very Seal of Gods everlasting Love; and this Body is open to its self, in the one Spirit, which giveth Life to every Member: and tho' one Member may receive more of the heavenly Life and Spirit than another, and through that may appear more eminent in the Body;

Body, because of the service of it, yet the least is felt and owned by the greatest, and the greatest by the least : And here is a heavenly Harmony in the Body, and a pure Oneness and agreement amongst the Members, singing and making Melody in their Hearts unto the Lord, and here the heavenly Song comes to be sung, and the Harps of God such have in their Hands, being redeemed from the Earth into a heavenly minded estate, where Male & Female are all one in Christ Jesus ; and this Body is created for the alone purpose of the Creator, and it lives by the daily reception of the heavenly Food, and is fed with the hidden Manna, and is tenderly dealt withal by its heavenly Father, and kept and nourished in his presence, from the reach of the Serpent, so that neither his Head nor Tail can draw it from its Habitation, being in the *Eden of God*, within the *Cherubims* and *flaming Sword* : And this is the great and unspeakable love of God unto a People in these latter dayes, who were as dry withered Bones in the open Vallies, which the breathing Life and Spirit of God hath revived, and enlivened and brought together into a Body, and one Heart, and one Mind, and one Spirit rules it, and orders it ; and in the Mountain of the height of *Israel* hath God set these raised quickned Ones to seed, where the Mountain of the Lords house is established, and where his Counsels are known, and he doth teach us of his Ways, and we will walk in his Paths, for here is one Fold, and one Shepherd, and one Lord, and his Name One ; and here we can serve God with one Shoulder, and with one consent ; and this Body is one, and one Head over it, which is Christ Jesus, from which all by Joynts and Bands are knit together, and receive Nourishment, and increase with the increase of God ; so happy are you who are Members of this blessed Body, who are those which God hath called to place his Name amongst ; who by the universal Spirit of Christ are brought into one, that were scattered abroad, and into a heavenly Agreement and Oneness, with the appearance of Life in every Member ; and what appears from God in one, is owned by another ; and so in the good counsel all are preserved out of the many Snares of the Enemy. And you living Ones, whose Life is fresh in you, see that Spirit this day that would lead out of the general fellowship, and heavenly agreement and oneness in the Life, into *Schism*, and divide from the universal Body, and from the Service it is exercised, and such go from the universal Spirit of Christ Jesus, and lose the

true



true and heavenly divine Wisdom, and so go into the old Deformity; into which disorderly Spirit, and under the Power of which all the Apostates have been in several wayes, and under several disguizes, from Age to Age, who became monstrous and cruel against the Life, and in the separation from the Power of God; all these Beasts have risen in the Apostacy, with their Heads & Horns, to lay waite the Heritage of the Lord: And now the clear day spring of Love from God is come, and the infallible discovery of his Mind and Will, its no marvel if the same Enemy appear against his glorious appearance; and where he prevails, there will be a shortness in the service of God, and as his evil seed springs and grows, it will naturally lead into a Separation, though in the same Profession, as a degenerate Plant may grow amongst the Plants of the right Seed, in the same Garden or Field, and such may have a Conscience to themselves, contrary to the universal Body, having lost the universal Spirit, which is one in all: And if any People be before any that are tender to the Lord, they will wait in tenderness, out of that which tends to Division, till it be cleared to their understandings, and hereby they come to be saved out of the hand of the Enemy, and preserved in the Body.

And so you tender People, who have tasted of the goodness of God, and who are this day in the *holy Seed*, the *Root and Off-spring of David*, the *bright Mornng Star*, keep your Habitations in him, who is your Stay and Settlement, who are of that Church and holy Building, that is to uphold the Testimony of Truth in the Earth; I beseech you all, be watchful, that *your Strength may daily be renewed*, that we may never fail the Lord; for he hath never failed us in the Day of our great Distress, but hath stood by us and for us, when many have been against us; *And though Sion be this day but as a Cottage in a Vineyard, and as a Lodge in a Garden of Cucumbers, and as a besieged City*; yet we may truly say, *If the Lord had not left us a small Remnant, we had been as Sodom, and been made like unto Gomorrah*.

And unto you that love the Lord above all, whom he hath called out of *Babylon*, from amongst the Witchcrafts and Sorceries of the *Whore*, who see over all the wiles of the *Devil*, is this Salutation sent, desiring it may find you all in the feeling of the searching trying Power and Spirit of the living God, that first reached unto you: Oh! let us go on still, *in the Way of Life and*

*Salvation*, looking back no more, nor be taken with the World, as they were, who excused themselves from coming to the *great Supper*, after they were bidden, and went after their Gound, and Oxen, and Merchandise, and so were shut out from partaking of the same; but let us never be taken with any thing we have left behind, whereby we may be drawn from the great Marriage-Supper of the Lamb, and so lose our part and portion in the Feast of the Lord, who hath prepared for his People a Feast of fat things: but let us lay hold on our Souls beloved, that the Marriage-Chamber we may know, and hold him fast, and not let him go: And truly *Friends*, except we be found always in an inward retired state, gathered into an intire daily watchfulness in the Light, we cannot hold him fast, but he will turn aside, and with-draw from us, that he may dwell with those that will be more watchful, and intire and faithful to him, and therefore its good that our Hearts be establisht with Grace, in an inward cleareness towards God, and so every Cloud of Darknes will be expelled, and our Minds will be gathered into the ancient center of Life, where the heavenly Power doth descend, and surrounds upon every Hand, where *Faith is the Shield*, and *Hope the Helmes* and *Righteousnes the Breast-Plate*, and *the Word of God the Sword*, and *the Feet shod with Obedience*, which is the preparation of the Gospel; and here the Flocks of his Companions may be safely fed in the green Pastures, and in the low Vallies, and lie down and rest at Noon; and when Temptations come, and the old Destroyer shews himself, here is boldness and courage to encounter with him, being in that strength that alwayes prevails over him; and though he may shoot his Arrows, and cast his fiery Darts, yet this heavenly Armour quenches them, and drives back his force and power; and so he is resisted by Faith, and overcome, and all his assaults and besetments, though he comes in like a Flood, and his raging against the living Souls be as the Waves of the Sea, yet the Lord God binds and limits him, so that he cannot over-run his Heritage, nor bring down their courage; and these be they that live and overcome, and shall inherit all things, and shall go into everlasting Life, in the end of all their Labours: And so let none be dismayed, though Storms and Tempests may come within and without, which many have known, and have sought a place to hide their Heads from the sharp extreame winterly season, with deep Travails, and Pangs for deliverance; yet the

the Lord hath been pleased to mitigate these Tryals, and change the season into a pleasant Spring, so that a Remnant can say; *The Winter is past, the Rain is over and gone; the time of the singing of Birds is come, and the Voice of the Turtle is heard in our Land,* whose pleasant Voice we could not hear, when we wandred up and down amongst the Hills and Mountains, we sought him there, but could not find him; but now are come to the precious Garden, where the Flowers spring, and the Spices flow forth, where the Mandrakes give a pleasant smell, and to the Mountain of Myrrh, and Hills of Frankensence, where the Turtle-Dove in his pleasant Voice is heard, which causeth the distressed and oppressed Ones to rejoyce, and the Mourners to sing: and this is the *Eden of God*, which a Remnant are restored into, and are brought out of the Earth, and from eating their Bread with Care, and drinking their Water with Astonishment, while the Wrath of God was over us, into Joy and Gladness of Heart, where every thing is blessed, and the Curse removed and taken away: And all must come up hither, and not lie in the driven-out state with old *Adam*, where the *Cares of this Life*, and *Deceitfulness of Riches* is over the Creation; and in that state they are, where they are questioning, *about what they shall eat, and what they shall drink, and wherewith they shall be clothed;* and this is very near to some that profess the Truth, who look downwards to the Earth, and their Conversations are in the Earth, and not in Heaven, and have hardly escaped eating and drinking with the Drunken; but let such beware lest their Day pass over their Heads, and with the *foolish Virgins* they be numbred, who lay down in a kind of Peace, having slain the Witnesses, and thought their Peace was equal with the *wise Virgins*, but when the searching trying Voice went through at Mid-night, *The Bridegroom comes, go you forth to meet him;* then it was not a Name that would serve, the Nature being wanting, nor the trimming of a Lamp without Oyl, but those were for the rebuke and reproof, and not only so, but for that sorrowful Sentence, *Go you cursed into everlasting Fire.* And if such as profess the Truth walk not in it, they of all People are for Reproof, if possibly thereby they may be restored, lest they fall into the Hands of the Wrath of the living God, into whose Hands to fall is most fearful, *For our God is a consuming Fire.*

And so, you living sensible People, unto whom the tender Life

of the Lord Jesus reacheth, who retain your first Love and open-heartedness to the Lord, who have been in the Garden with your beloved, who are daily satisfied and fed by him, and led amongst the Lillies and by the Beds of Spices, wherewith you come to be anointed, and so become a holy Nation and a Royal Priesthood; and this is the substance of the anointing Oyl of the first Priesthood under the Law, wherewith *Aaron* and his Sons were to be anointed; and the Command of God by *Moses* was, *That none were to make any Likeness of it, to imitate that Priesthood*; and it is the Command of God, that none are to make any Likeness of this heavenly anointing, to imitate this spiritual Priesthood, or to create a false anointing, where the heavenly Life doth not spring, if any do, they will be known by the savour thereof, which is not sweet and savoury; whereby the tender-hearted may be refreshed, and the breathing Babes of the Immortal Birth truly satisfied; all such are in danger of being cut off from the Family of the Lord. Therefore you Children of the true Seed, I may say of a truth to you, that the Anointing you have receiv'd of Christ Jesus abides in you, and you need not that any man teach you, but as the same Anointing teacheth you of all things, which is the Truth, and is no Lye. So let all feel after the Lord, being brought to the knowledge of his Way, and into his Garden, where all things spring and grow, whereby salvation and strength is obtained; and here your Life and Light will shine, in the Practice of the pure Religion, and you will know more and more that the Lord calls upon all to labour while it is called to day, *for the Night cometh wherein none can work*; and so the fruitful Seasons all will know, and no Idleness must be here; if any be sloathful, and doth the Work of the Lord negligently, the Curse lies at the door, and such will be as the sloathful man that hid his hand in his Bosom, whose Field was overgrown with Thorns, and the stone-Wall thereof was broken down, and the sluggard will be clothed with Rags, and such as do not watch, will walk naked, and their shame will appear; but all that are true and faithful in heart to the Lord, they shall encrease in the heavenly Substance, and Riches, and durable Treasure for them is laid up in store with the Lord

And so, dear Friends and living People, the Love of God is fresh in my heart towards you all, and the compass of the eternal Arm of Love I feel you in, and rejoyce with you with that Joy that is unspeakable: Oh! the Plant of Love, the Seed of the living God, the

the Lord of Sabbath, the God of all our Peace and Consolation, which hath healed our souls. Oh! let this Plant grow within your Habitations, and this will gather you home into the Fathers Bosom. So wait low to feel the Love of God spring in you, in its pure innocent Life and divine Clearness, and let it never grow cold, but feel the operation thereof, as coals of fire, which have a most vehement flame, and let it arise over all, that many Waters may never quench it, nor the Floods drown it; for the Devil is secretly at work with his floods of Hatred and Enmity, and seeking to bring up the carnal Mind, which is the Womb of all Deceit, which brings forth divers strange Births, and all in the Enmity against the Love of God, that thereby he may poison and corrupt the Heart, and so bring Death over again; and this was his secret work in the beginning of that great Apostacy, drawing from the first Love, which Spirit appeared very Angelically in its first rise in the Church of *Corinth* and *Galatia*, and in the seven Churches of *Asia*, which might be particularly spoken to: But you Children of the holy Seed, to whom I write, are come to the beginning again, to the Light of the glorious Gospel of Gods Kingdom, and to the endeared Love and brotherly Kindness, where you have Fellowship with the Father and the Son, which the tender-hearted People of God were in before the Apostacy entred, and you can see through all the corrupt clouds and vails of overspreading Darkness, into that primitive Purity, and how the Devil wrought by various ways to stain the glory of that Church, and what Travails and Pangs the Apostle went through for the reaching the Conscience of those that were darkened by the Adversary, and what Perils he went through amongst false Brethren, and how some preach Christ out of Envy; this was from a false Anointing, as aforesaid, who had the Form of Godliness, but not the Power thereof; and there were some whose Mouths were to be stopped.

And so, dear Friends, let us be watchful in the heavenly Light, against that cold spirit which hath the image of Death in its face, which rides upon the pale Horse, and Hell follows him, which leads out of the warm sweet love of God, which is without Disimulation; and this poisonous filthy Spirit, its way is in the Enmity, and if it hath the words of love, and a seeming outward shew, yet in its self it is deceitful; and so Love is a holy undefiled Principle, always opening and springing up tenderly in an obedient

dient heart, where the pure cleansing Blood of the Lamb hath passed through and sanctified, and its lively still in its self, and more in substance than in shew, and feel its growth where it is, and its one in all; and here the true Church is established, and all that abide in this Love abide in God, it is a stream of that Fullness which is incomprehensible, and in it self unchangeable, and is tender and merciful unto all Breathings of Life in the Children of men, and loves Enemies, because its near unto all; and by this Seed the Lord redeems and saves from Hell and Destruction, and by this seed the Earth shall be replenished with Righteousness, and from it Holiness buds and blossoms, and brings forth to the glory of God: And so happy are you that feel the growth of this blessed seed, and are made Partakers of its Ministry, and are come to *Jerusalem*, which is from above, whose Children are all taught of God, and great is their Peace in Righteousness, being established. And here you know and are sensible that God hath planted his holy Gospel amongst you, that is free and not chargeable, and you are Witnesses for him, against the false Teachers, *viz. the Merchants of Babylon*, and you cannot buy their Merchandize any more, nor make any agreement with them, but must hearken to the voyce of Christ, and stand for his free Gospel, lest you be cut off from amongst his People; and so are in the Faith which overcomes, and in the seed that God doth bless forever, which will stand for a Light, and a Way, and a Foundation, when *Babylon* shall be thrown down with violence, and her Merchants shall weep and lament for her, and no man shall buy her Merchandize any more; and People shall seek to him, and shall be gathered unto him, *who is the Light of the World*, when the *Whore* is consumed and burnt with fire; for the Lord God, who is strong in Judgment, will bring her day upon her according to all her Murders, Witchcrafts and Sorceries, and all her painted Glory and out-side Dress and Habit, and all her Joies and Pleasures, and all her Delights shall depart away from her, and Sorrow, Trouble and Distress shall overtake her.

Oh! therefore, *Friends*, what shall preserve us but Christ Jesus, who is become to us as a little Sanctuary, and happy are you that feel a Dwelling in him, where the Law that works Wrath is fulfilled, in the Ministration of it upon the Transgressor, for which it was added till the Seed came, which takes away Transgression and makes an end of Sin, and brings in everlasting Righteousness.



who saves both Body and Soul, the Body from the act of sin, and the Soul from the guilt of it; and so the Creature it self, though it has acted and done those things that have displeased the Lord, comes to be delivered from the bondage of corruption, & brought into the glorious liberty of the Sons of God, and so into covenant with him, where *the Sins are blotted out, and their Iniquities he will remember no more,* and God himself dwells amongst them, and is their God, who leads them, where they shall hunger no more, nor thirst no more, but he feeds them and watches over them night and day, and leads them to living Fountains of Water, and wipes away all Tears from their Eyes; so you are blessed of all the Families of the Earth, who are come to this living substance, which is the glory of these last dayes, which all the Prophets testified of, whose Ministrations were the glory of the former dayes, who are come to the day which King and Prophets desired to see, even to the day of Christ, who reveals the Father, and makes known his will and mind, whose day is everlasting, and his Throne shall remain forever, as the Sun before him, and abundance of Peace shall be in his day, and *Judah* shall be saved, and *Israel* shall dwell safely, whose knowledge and light shall fill the Earth as the Waters cover the Sea, into which he will gather his People more and more; and so you are come beyond the outward visible Signs, into the Substance, and beyond *John* with his Water-baptism, into Christ, who baptizeth with the holy Ghost and Fire, which takes away sin, and purges the Conscience from dead Works to serve the living God. So in Christ the Condemnation ceaseth, and the Law is ended that works wrath; *and so walking not after the flesh, but after the spirit, unto them there is no Condemnation;* and so they come to be the new Creation of God, their souls and bodies sanctified, and so are risen with Christ, and are the dead men that live together with him, whose Dew is as the dew of Herbs, and are named of his great Family, *The innumerable company of Angels.*

And so, *Friends*, all that retain their first Love, and cast their care upon the Lord, he will care for them, and never leave them nor forsake them, but will lift up their heads in the hour of Temptation, and preserve them as Birds flying, from day to day; and blessed be his Name, he is filling our hearts with his heavenly Power, and causing his tender Well-spring of everlasting Love to flow into our hearts, which makes our gatherings together in the service of his Truth, lovely unto us, being come to that which is everlasting,

everlasting, yea, unto God the Judge of all, and to Jesus the Mediator, and to the Blood of Sprinkling, where the Law contained in Ordinances, and the Hand-writing is blotted out and nailed to the Cross, where is no observation of days, moneths times and years, nor respect of holy days, new-moons and sabboths, where none can judge you in meats and drinks, after the Rudiments of the World, after the Traditions of men, and not after Christ, which figurative shadowy things People have followed, and not Christ the substance, who feeds his People with his own body and blood, *viz.* Spirit and Life; and so you are come from them that are bowing to and worshipping of Angels, intruding themselves into those things they have not seen, vainly puff up by the fleshly mind, unto Christ Jesus, the head of all Principalities and Powers, unto whom the Angels must be in subjection, who hath obtained a more excellent Name than they, for the suffering of death, crowned with Glory and Honour; And you are come from the Ways and Worships of the World, into the true Worship of the Father, which is in Spirit and in Truth, and to the effectual means of Salvation, *viz.* Spirit, Water and Blood, which mortifies the deeds of the Body, and washes and cleanses the inside, and so brings to Righteousness and Purity, and cleanness within, in the sight of God, which exceeds the Righteousness of the Pharisees without. And so fear not, you tender Ones, *though Weeping may be for a night, yet Joy cometh in the morning*; for the Lord is with us, and the shout of Sions King is among us, and he is binding up the broken-hearted, and healing the bruised Ones, and perfect Soundness is appearing, and he is bringing his Plagues upon Death, and swallowing it up in Victory, according to his Promise; and he is God unchangeable, else we had long ago been consumed, but his tender Mercy never fails, they are new every Morning, and his sweet Bosom of Love is open to receive all his Children, and gracious is the Lord to his afflicted Ones, and that my soul knows right-well, with the rest of Sions Travellers.

Oh, my Friends! is it not a Kingdom which we seek, that's not of this World, a more sure Habitation than Tabernacles of Clay? so let us press after this Kingdom, and grow more inward and heavenly in our hearts and minds, and in our solemn Assemblies still wait, having our Loyns girt about, and our Lights burning, that none may deceive themselves, but all feeling the Life of Truth in the inward part, where all may sit together in heavenly

places in Christ Jesus, and speak every one to his Neighbour and Brother, under the Vine and under the Fig-Tree, and in the Garden of God labour and dress it, and keep it, and not feed upon knowledge, without Obedience to God, as *Adam* and *Eve* did, and so lost the Life of their Souls; but let us labour, and not be idle in this day of the Lord, that we may inhabit the holy Land, and possess it forever, where the Plow-man overtakes the Reaper, and the Treader of Grapes he that soweth Seed, and the Mountains drop down sweet Wine, and all the Hills melt.

So in the endeared Love of God, which I feel in my Heart towards you, who are the true born Children of the Immortal Seed, who keep your Love and Virginity for Christ Jesus, who travails with me in Spirit for the Redemption, Prosperity and Peace of *Sion*, taking part with me of her Mercies, Blessings and abundant Favours, I rest, Wishing your everlasting endless Joy and Comfort, in the Bond of Peace, and sensible holy Unction, which we have received of the holy One.

*Your Friend and Travelling Brother, in the Truth,*

*Written in Swansey  
in Wales.*

RICHARD SAMBLE.

## An Epistle to Friends.

*Dear Friends;*

**V**Who are come in Obedience to the everlasting Truth that is revealed from God in these latter dayes, which is Christ Jesus, the Way to God, who is the true and unchangeable Light of Holiness and Righteousness; which holy unchangeable Light shines in your Hearts, which hath convinced your Consciences, and will let you see whatsoever is contrary to Gods holy Will: Now that you may all wait in the same pure Light and Life of the Son of God, that you may stand against all that is sinful, and in Gods holy fear to mind, from day to day, your own Conditions, so will all be preserved to God, out of all Uncleanness and Unrighteousness, to stand approved in his sight, to offer to God the Praise that's due unto him, and in a single-hearted

hearted state, be freely given up to serve the Lord, for our God loves a single heart, and an honest upright mind, in Male & Female, and so you will all know *your Bodies to be the Temples of the holy Ghost*; and *Christ dwelling in you*, which is great Riches, and durable Honour, which Riches will not fail, but will remain when all this World's Glory will fade away. And all to keep low and single to the Lord, and this is the way for all to see the prosperity of the blessed Truth, and pure enlargement in the same: and there is no way to prosper in the Truth, but as every one is humbled, and keeps low in Heart and Mind before the invisible God, *feeling at all Times and Seasons the pure fear of God in the Heart, and the dread & holy awe of him upon your Spirits*; and this is the way to increase in the knowledge of the invisible God & Christ Jesus, *whom to know is Life Eternal*, and all to travel on in this Path: For my beloved Friends, this is the *Path of Life*, and it is the *Way of the Righteous that's a shining Light, that shines clearer and clearer unto the perfect day*; and this Path leads into true Liberty where none can be deceived, but all come to be sealed unto God in the Covenant of Life, amongst the Children of Light, who are of the heavenly glorious Day of God, that shall never have an end. And as I said, all will come to know the true Liberty of the Sons of God, being brought into full Obedience unto him, and so will see the true Liberty how far the extent of it is; and so for all to abide faithful to God, and obedient to him; and this is the glorious Liberty, and here all come to worship the one God in Spirit & in Truth, with one Heart, and with one Soul, and with one Mind in the same Truth; and here all are sensible of God, and his Power, and Authority, which keeps the House, and beautifies it; and so here none can take a false liberty to themselves, neither are any darkned that abide here, but their understandings are more and more opened to see him, who is invisible; but if any lose their Obedience to God, then Darkness begins to overspread and cover the clearness that's in the Heart, and so the Creature begins to take liberty to himself, contrary to the Truth and holy liberty of the Sons of God, and so goes into Uncleaness, and hath broken the Bond of the Covenant, and is gone into the Earth, and so becomes an enemy to the Cross of Christ, and crucifies the Life within him, and so is more and more darkned.

And therefore all *loving Friends and Children of the Light*, I beseech

seech you look unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your Faith, that his strength daily all may feel, and so all will be kept in pure obedience unto God unto the end, and as all abide in obedience unto God, all weights and burdens of Sin will be taken away; for Christ Jesus is manifest to away take Sin, and to bring in everlasting Righteousness; and its he that takes away the burden of Sin from the Soul, and brings true Joy and Gladness into the Heart; so the Oppressed is set free, and the imprisoned and captivated Soul is redeemed from under the bondage of Corruption and Captivity in spiritual Sodom and Egypt; and now a Saviour is come, who is strong and mighty, whose Name is called, *The Lord our Righteousness*; and this holy Name is great in the midst of us, whose Day is come, and coming swiftly to overtake the Wicked, and overturn the Proud, that they may be broken before him, that his Name may be exalted over all, whose Name and Power will prevail, and is higher than the Devil's Power; and will break his dominion of Sin and Wickedness, and lay it waste for evermore; for in it is no true Peace nor lasting Joy, nor true Content, but altogether disquietness, trouble and sorrow, which never will have an end. And therefore is Christ Jesus come, whose Kingdom stands in Righteousness, in Peace, and heavenly and everlasting Joy, which is the Kingdom of the Antient of days, which the invisible God is setting up in these latter days amongst his People, which is a Kingdom of Peace and Righteousness forever and ever; and the Judgment of God is set over the head of the Dragon, the old Serpent, and over the Beast's dominion, which shall weigh down all his Deceit and Treachery, and whatsoever rebels against the Power of the Lord God and the Lamb, this Judgment which is set shall overtake it, and bruise it to Powder; and the holy Dominion of Christ Jesus, and his righteous Government, shall be exalted, which was before the Devil's kingdom of Sin and Transgression was: And therefore look unto Jesus, that he may lead and guide every one, who is the true Comforter of the Soul, and the only Upholder in the hour of Temptation, who hath begun the work in your Hearts, and will carry it on and finish it to his Praise and Glory, and he will bear us up at all times, and will be with us to the end. And so all wait in lowliness of Mind, and in true subjection of Heart day by day upon the Lord, in the pure Light of Christ Jesus, and then all that leads out the Mind

from its true Stay will be discerned, and so your inward secret Enemies will waite away, and fall before you, and they shall be consumed, yea, all that secretly do oppress the Soul, and causeth bitterness of Spirit, and anguish, and pain, and discouragements in your daily Travail, these things shall more and more be discovered, as there is a patient waiting in the Light of Life in the inward parts; and this is the true Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ, which is obtained by Faith in him, and as all mind this work of God, and wait to be preserved from day to day, in the increase of it, here every one comes to know the *one Lord, one Faith and one Baptism*, which Baptism is a deep Mystery to all out-side Professors of God and Christ Jesus, at this day, who are in the Transgression in the fall of the first *Adam*, where nothing is holy, nor clean, nor pure, but all sinful, and so all under the Curse, and bears the Image of the first Man, who is of the Earth earthly, and in him no man is justified before God, neither in Words nor Actions, and such know not the *one Lord*, which is rich to all that call upon him in Truth and Righteousness, nor the *one Baptism*, which is *the answer of a good Conscience towards God*, whereby the Heart is cleansed, and the Conscience purified from dead works, to serve the living God. So that all may know this Work inwardly, and then the *saving Faith*, which gives dominion over the World, and the *one Baptism*, and *one Lord* all will come to the knowledge of, and so all will know Redemption from the Earth, and out of the World of sorrow, pain and grief, into Christ, who said, *In the World you shall have Trouble, but in me you shall have Peace.* For Christ Jesus is come, and calls his People out of this corruptible World, and leads them forth into his own righteous Habitation, which is holy and clean, pure and undefiled before God and the Father: And let all be watchful in this, and abide in this which is holy before God; and such as have obtained Life, and are come to the knowledge of these weighty things, by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, who is the immortal unchangeable God, who is come near, and is the Author of our Faith, which Faith is a Mystery, held in a pure Conscience; which Faith, such as are defiled and unrighteous know not: Now that all may abide in the Faith of Jesus, which works by Love, and all are to increase in Faith, and grow strong in the Faith, and so all will be united together, and fastened together in one Body, by one Spirit, every one in  
his



his place and holy order, in the Body of Christ, which he is the Head of; and all Members that are of this Body, must be quickened Members, lively Members; none dead or useles, but all alive, all yielding one to another in the Truth, none stubborn; this is the Word of Truth unto all, for if any such be, they will be taken away, for such bring forth no Fruit to Gods glory, no more then a Branch that abides not in the Vine, which is dried up, and so fit for the Fire: So that all the Members of this Body may wait to be further prepared and fitted, that all may be fastened together in the Lord, and so all feed together, and drink together of the Bread of Life and Water of Life, and so come to know the Cup of Blessing, which is the Communion of the Blood of Christ, and the Bread of Life which is the Communion of the Body of Christ, which is Meat indeed, and Drink indeed; and this is the substance of all the Figures, which is the Life of Jesus manifested in our mortal Bodies; and all that come to know this Life, and walk in the Light of it, have no need to follow men, who say, *Lo here*, and *Lo there*, but they follow Christ Jesus in his own pure appearance in themselves, and feel the drawings of his heavenly Power and Spirit, which brings them near to God, and to his heavenly Kingdom and Glory; and all that abide in Christ, having their minds retired into his Light, they are the true and living Members of his Body, Flesh of his Flesh, and Bone of his Bone: And unto you that are thus changed from the Corruptions of the World, is the Way of Life opened, who are born again of incorruptible Seed, which Way is prepared of God for the ransomed Ones, that his Servants may serve him, and walk with him in the Regeneration, in his own way of Holiness, which is cast up from all the wayes of Men, in the Fall. And so dear Friends travel on, saith my Soul, in this pure way of Life, and so all will come up nearer and nearer to the Lord, out of all Corruptions and Defilements whatsoever, into the antient fellowship of the Saints, and unto God the Judge of all: And so all you that are baptized in the Name of the Lord, who are washed in the River of Judgm. nt from your Sins, and whose Hearts are made clean, ye know the Name of the Lord, into which ye are baptized, and the Spirit which baptized you; and this is the substance of *John's* Baptism, who was sent from God to baptize with Water. And all that know this work of God in the redemption of their Souls, by the Power and Spirit of  
Jesus

Jesus Christ, they come to be satisfied in the things of God, which relate to their eternal Peace; and as they abide in Christ, who is the Life and Power, they come to be Pillars in the House of God, and shall go forth no more, but the Throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in the midst of them, and the Fathers Name shall be written in their Fore-heads, and he that sits upon the Throne shall dwell amongst them, and he shall lead them to living Fountains of Water, and shall wipe away all Tears from their Eyes. So blessed are you that are baptized in the Name of the Lord, ye shall be satisfied in the presence of God, who is with all them that meet together in his Name; for this is a deep Work which God is bringing forth this day by his Almighty Power and Wisdom, at which many are, and shall be astonished; for this is that Promise of the Lord God, which of Old hath been spoken of, who is now come to make an end of Sin, and bring in everlasting Righteousness; and all that see this Plant of renown, which Gods right Hand hath planted, can say with my Soul, *Now is Salvation come, and Strength is come, and this is a Gospel day, and these be Gospel times wherein we now live*; for the lasting Dispensation of Gods love to the Sons of Men is revealed, which is the first and the last, the beginning and the end, which is the *Ministration of Life*, which was before Death was, and is over Death, and the power of it, which is the same that was with God in the beginning, when he laid the Foundations of the Earth, and it changeth not, but is the same from Generation to Generation; and all that are taught of God, and are under this Ministration, are blessed and happy forever, who abide faithful in the Power and Virtue of it, their understandings become more clearer to see over the *lost World*, and all its corruptible wayes, and Men and Women in them, who are like to Perish by Multitudes, except they Repent.

And now, *dearly beloved Friends*, as this Life springs in you, so let all give heed to its Motion in all its arisings, and so all will know its dominion and power in every heart, to subdue all the unrighteous Motions of the spirit of this World; and this is the true Travail of the soul, and here is the cause of true and heavenly joy, and such come to have the Harps of God, and to sing the Song of *Moses* and of the *Lamb*, whose souls are redeemed from the Earth, and from under the Curse, and here is a sweet Harmony amongst the Saints, making Melody in their hearts, and singing with Grace

unto

unto the Lord, whose pure Pretence is in the midst of his People this day; and this is a joyful Sound that's now heard in our Habitations; for God himself is with us, and he is our God, and we will serve him and worship him day and night in his Temple; and truly where this joy springs in any Soul, its better than the joy of any corruptible thing; for that will pass away, but the joy of Heaven is everlasting. And so, blessed are all that have Unity with this Power and saving Life, which redeems from Death and endless Sorrow, which is the cause of the Saints joy; for behold what Travail and inward bowed-downness, and secret Grief and Mourning is the portion of the Soul, until it meet with the beloved, who is its Comforter in all its Tryals, Travails and Temptations, and begets in it true Consolation, and makes it flourish like an Herb, and fills it with fatness, and pours forth saving Health into it, and heals it of its bruises and wounds, and makes it sing Praises unto him. And so God is now come to be admired at in his Saints, and all that believe in him, both small and great. And so, all you true begotten Children, who are of the seed Immortal, feel inwardly a nearness unto the Lord, and travel on in the Way of Life, where all may be preserved from day to day, that all may feel in them a secret dependance upon the Lord: And this is the sure Building; for here you have the seal of the Foundation of God, even your Acceptance with him; and truly Friends, there never was a more needful time than now to be watchful; for God has been at work, breaking down and plucking up, and sitting and preparing the ground for the sowing the Seed of his heavenly Kingdom; and now through much labour, travel and wisdom is the Seed come to spring, and the openings of Life are unto its Branches, as the early and latter Rain, whereby its tenderness is preserved, and now Innocency is coming up, praises to the Lord God forever. And therefore let all be watchful in the Power of God, and stand in the Light; for there is a secret Enemy that seeks to betray the Innocency of your Minds, and seeks to hinder the prosperity of the work of God in your Hearts; and this is the old Adversary of the Soul, which hath darkned the Creation from Age to Age, and betrayed People from God, and from his pure Wisdom, unto himself, and into the Wisdom of the World; and so that all may watch against him in the Light of Christ, where all his subtilties are discerned, and his Mysterious Workings in this day are seen, and nothing doth subdue him but the Power of God, and

and that chains down all his Rage, and stops all his Floods of Temptations; And so all will be preserv'd as they keep upon their Watch, and will reign over him in the dominion of Christ Jesus, and here is the place of safety, my Friends.

*Dear Brethren and Sisters* in the Covenant of God, who have received the Attonement by Jesus Christ, who hath gathered us from the barren Mountains and Hills of Desolation, where the blackness of the night of Apostacy was oven us, in which wandering state we were most miserable; for we had not the knowledge of the Way of God, but were altogether darkned, and without Form, until the Lord God in the Riches of his Love did make his glorious Light from Heaven to shine into our dark hearts, which let us see our undone state, when sorrow and deep trouble did compass us about on every hand; when we had no voyce of joy within our Dwellings, or gladness within our Habitations, but heaviness of heart from day to day, and secret fears and tears, Mourning after Mourning, and then the Lord God brought us into a feeling after him.

And now behold, *O my Brethren!* with what manner of Love the Father hath loved us, whom he hath made Objects of his Pity, and Monuments of his Mercy, who hath sought us out and found us, as a Shepherd searcheth out his Sheep in the day when he seeketh after them, and hath brought us into his own holy Mountain, which is a sure dwelling, where the poor and needy are refreshed, and where the weary find Rest. And now our Land enjoys her Sabbaths, and Peace is within our Habitations, and the shining of Glory and heavenly Beauty is within our Dwellings, and the Darkness of the Night and the Evening Clouds are passing away, and the clear Day is arising, as the Morning spread upon the Mountains, and the Dew of the lasting Hills are coming down upon the little Heritage of God this day, who have right to the Blessing with faithful *Abraham*, and this Blessing of God is the Comfort of the Redeemed of the Lord, and their daily Strength, even the Blessing of God, which made *Joseph* in old time as a very fruitful Bough; and strengthened his Bow against all the Wiles of the Devil, who was found faithful to God in ten Temptations; and now this Blessing which came upon the head of *Joseph*, and upon the crown of the head of him that was separated from his Brethren, now the seed of *Abraham*, who are of his Faith in Christ Jesus, partake of *Abraham's* Righteousness and *Joseph's* Blessings, which doth

doth give us strength from day to day to overcome the wicked One,  
 and all that are come to Redemption by Christ Jesus, and are in  
 the Faith which is the Gift of God; they are true Children and  
 Heirs, according to the Promise, and they are the *Israel* of  
 God, who are of the Spirit, and love Righteousness, and can  
 rejoyce over *Babylon*, the Mother of Harlots, who are begotten  
 unto God, and are of *Jerusalem* which is above, which is free from  
 all Uncleanness, and is the Mother of us all; and so *Israel* may  
 rejoyce, which is after the Spirit, who are the Circumcision made  
 without hands, the fore-skin of whose Hearts is taken away by  
 the operation of the Spirit of God, and so are quickened by the  
 Lord Jesus, who is a quickening Spirit, and are made to sit toge-  
 ther in heavenly places in Christ, and are baptized into him, and  
 have fellowship with him in his Sufferings, being made conforma-  
 ble by his Power, and planted with him in the likeness of his  
 Death, we shall have part with him in his Glory, and so put on  
 Christ, that all may bear his Image, *who when he was reviled, re-  
 viled not again, who was as a Lamb dumb before the Shearer*; and all  
 that are baptized with this Baptism, put on, as the elect of God,  
*Bowels of Love, Meekness, Humbleness of Mind, Patience, Long-suf-  
 fering, Forbearing one another*; and such know Christ to be the  
 head of all Principalities and Powers, who was before all things,  
 and by him all things consist, who is the Foundation of the Pro-  
 phets and Apostles, which was the Prophets Teacher and Wis-  
 dom, and is the Saints Wisdom this day; and this is an Original,  
 which was before Languages, Tongues and Speeches were; for  
 this Original was with God before the World was formed; and  
 by him was all things made that were made; and this is he who  
 came into the World in the fullness of time, according to the  
 Scriptures, *who dyed for our Sins, and rose again for our Justification,  
 who is a Priest forever after the Order of Melchizedeck*, who hath  
 obtained an Everlasting Priesthood, because he abideth forever,  
 who hath a Name given him which is above every Name that is  
 named, that all might fear him who made Heaven and Earth, the  
 Seas and Fountains of Water; for he is King of Kings and Lord  
 of Lords, and now *Israel* may rejoyce and lift up their heads, who  
 believe in their hearts in the Lord Jesus, who are Witnesses that  
 God hath raised him from the dead; and so with joy can the true  
 Church, the *Israel* of God say, *Unto us a Child is born, unto us a  
 Son is given, and the Government is upon his Shoulders, and he is worthy*

of the Name of **WONDERFUL COUNSELLOR**, the *Mighty God*, the *Everlasting Father*, and the *Prince of Peace*, who is our Shepherd and Bishop, and our great Law-giver, who is able to save and to destroy, and when the Body is dead, is able to cast into Hell, who laid down his Life for us, that through Death he might destroy him that had the Power of Death, which is the Devil, and deliver them who for fear of Death, were all their life time subject to Bondage, who hath broken down the middle Wall of Partition that was between God and us, and hath caused Light to break forth in Darkness, in which glorious Light our fellowship stands, where the Saints society and fellowship stood in old time, where they were formerly settled as a House built upon a Rock, and established in the Power and Life, in the Light of Jesus Christ, where nothing could stand between God & their souls to separate them from him, neither can any thing stand here to separate one from another, *but whether Jew or Gentile, Male or Female, Bond or Free, we are all one in Christ Jesus, in whom we have Redemption through his Blood, even the Forgiveness of Sins, that henceforth we should not live to our selves, but to Christ that dyed for us, and rose again that we might shine as Lights in this dark World.*

And so, dear Friends, live in the Truth, and take up the daily Cross, without which none can be Disciples of Christ; and let Self in all things be denied; that the Salvation of God may purely be known in every soul; for no man can come to Gods Salvation but as he bows his heart to the Power that reveals it. Therefore all that are Young, I exhort and counsel you in the name and fear of God, as you are convinced in your Consciences of the spiritual Appearance of Christ Jesus, and being come to a sight of your own Conditions, by the shining of his heavenly Light within you, who are come to see a Restraint from actual Transgressions, and so the Branches of the evil Tree are cut down, wait to see the Root of the Tree destroyed; for *Friends*, there must be a farther work than a Convincement, or a Profession of the Truth: And therefore all must come to the Power, to the Ax that's laid to the Root of the evil Tree, that the Ground may be changed, that the Lusts may be destroyed, that there may not be in any of you a lustful Heart after any Iniquity; if so, then you will forget God, notwithstanding your Profession; for mark what the Apostle said to the *Christians* in the days of old, *Take heed* (said he) *lest there be in any one of you an evil Heart of unbelief in departing from the living*



God. So the heart must be chang'd, otherwise you will come short of the Kingdom, although you may be one in Profession with us. For consider *Israel* of old, after they came out of *Egypt*, they suffered in them an evil Heart of Unbelief; and the Word preachd did not profit, because it was not mixed with Faith in them that heard it; and this was the cause of their sorrow, who were overthrow'n in the Wilderness, who lust after evil things.

So now, all that are come so near as to be convinced of the Truth, and to be one with us in Profession, that you may stand in the pure Light of Life, in which as you stand, all the Works of Darkness will be made manifest, and the secret Lusts in the heart discerned; and so destruction from the Lord will come upon that part which lusteth after Evil, and you will come to the Foundation which God hath laid, to that holy Seed which is incorruptible; and here your Sins will be covered, and buried down by the Baptism of the holy Ghost into death; and so you will come beyond a bare Profession, into the Power of the Truth, which Power destroys the Devil and his work: and by this pure Power of God that professing spirit will be cast out, which hath satten in the Temple of God, which comes no farther than a Profession, and keeps the Creature in Transgression.

Now, *beloved Friends*, here hath been the In let of Deceit from Generation to Generation amongst the Sons of men; for this evil spirit first inticeth the Mind to evil, and begets Lusts in the Heart, and when it prevails so far, it leads into the act of Sin, and yet holds fast to a profession of God and Christ; Here comes man's loss, when his mind goes after this false spirit, he follows the old Murderer of mankind, who draws forth the Mind after him, by his allurements, into false Pleasures, and earthly Delights; and so upon these barren Mountains, and in this desolate Wilderness he destroys the Soul, and to cover his treachery, spreads a fair Profession over all; and a company of Priests in old time came so far as this, who consented together by the way, in that unrighteous Nature, to murder the Innocent; and this professing Spirit hath deceived Nations, and held forth the out-side profession of God to the Children of men, sometimes in one Form, and sometimes in another.

Now that all *young convinced People*, and all others that profess the Truth, may love the Lord, and walk in the way of his Judgments, and come to tryal and search before the Lord, for this

same Spirit will seek to cover it self under a profession of the Truth in this Generation; and wheresoever any come short that profess Truth, in performing their duty to the Lord, its not for want of a Convincement, but for want of Obedience, and for lack of Watchfulness, and abiding in the Light; and so though thou mayst be convinced, yet the Destroyer may betray thy Soul, and hardness of Heart may spring up in thee again; But as thou abidest faithful to the Lord thy God, in thy measure, given thee of him, all the Deceit of the Devil will be discovered, as I said before, and a tender-hearted state thou wilt feel within thee, and that will be thy delight day by day, as the weighty Power of God breaks forth in thee, which melts thee down into its Life, and so thou becomeest a tender Plant before thy heavenly Father; here thou becomeest a true member of the body of Christ, and art in unity with all the true begotten Children, who are of the Light, and of the Day; and thy delight will be more and more to be watchful, and thou wilt take heed to thy way, lest thy Foot at any time should go aside out of the Path of Life, yea, thou wilt be desirous to know thy Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace; Oh! thou wilt prize thy time, and count even the Hours that thou spendest, that thou mayst see the time redeemed: And so thy secret cry will be before the Lord for daily strength, knowing that of thy self thou canst do nothing. And now, thou that hast escaped the Pit, and art redeemed from the snare of the Destroyer, and thy travel is in the Way of Life, though the old Enemy may present his Temptations, and cunning Allurements, to draw thee out of thy subjection to the Power, yet thou art preserved, and many times beyond thy thoughts, doth the Lord work for thy preservation, and this doth ingage thee still to be obedient to the Power of God; and when this work of Regeneration is begun, behold what Combats with this spiritual Adversary? What strivings inwardly? what Pangs take hold of the poor Creature? even as a Woman in travail for her first Born, when the Lord God kindles a Fire in the Earth, and when he comes with his Sword to divide between the precious and the vile, when he brings his day upon the Proud, that burns like an Oven, which sets the Heavens on Fire, and melts the Elements with fervent heat, which consumes the Dross and Tin, and reprobate Silver; and so in mercy looks upon lost man, and in his love and pity redeems him, and forms him for himself

to shew forth his praise; and this is the true Birth brought forth through much Travail and godly Sorrow, which works Repentance unto Life, and this is the Birth of the Morning, unto which the Light reacheth, and upon which the Sun ariseth, which is begotten of God, and quickned by his Spirit, and so comes forth out of the dead corruptible Womb of the Earth, into Life by Jesus Christ; and this Birth doth experience the deep Work of God, and passeth through the shaking of the old Heaven, and the old Earth, where all the trouble, fears and doubtings are, and where nothing of that old, professing and corrupt Nature, begotten of the sinful Spirit upon the Bed of false ease, can stand, though never so high in out-side profession of God and Christ. And thou being thus redeemed, and saved from thy Sins, art now come to wait for daily Bread at the hand of thy heavenly Father, who opens to thee when thou knockst, and gives unto thee when thou dost ask, and is found of thee when thou seekest him in the springings of his own day within thee; early thou inquirest after him, Oh! thou shalt never want, the Lord will always be thy Portion, and thy exceeding great Reward, who is become an everlasting Covenant, made to *Abraham*, and to his Seed forever; and thou breathing Birth now knowest the true fear of the invisible God, which is placed in thy Heart, not taught by the Precepts of men, but purely wrought in thee by the Lord, who said, *I will place my Fear in their Hearts, and they shall not depart from me.* And all manner of Uncleanness is abomination to thee, and now behold what pure Praises over all ariseth to the Lord from his own begotten, for its his own Work that praiseth him, and declares his Glory: And therefore you tender People; whom the great God hath sought out and gathered to himself in the springing of his glorious day, fear not, though as *Sion's* Mourners, the Lord will comfort you, for he is with us, who was with his People in the dayes of Old, even from their Womb to their tender years, who bare them as on Eagles Wings, and brought them to himself, and was a Father unto them, and carried them on, all the dayes of Old, and led them through the Deep, as in the Wilderness, that they should not stumble, to get himself a glorious Name, who said, *When old Age and gray Hairs are upon thee, I will not forsake thee.* So if Mourning may be thy portion for a time, while many Troubles and Exercises compass thee about, yet fear not, though the Enemy who by his power of Darknes would oppress thee, to cause thee

thee to faint by the way, he shall never prevail over thee, if thou art faithful to the Lord, but the Lord will give thee Power to lay aside every Weight, and the Sin that doth so easily beset thee, and run with patience the Race that's set before thee, and still watch against the motions of Sin, that may war in thy Members, which seeks to lead into Captivity again, unto the Law of Sin and Death, and stand in the dominion over that part that would receive the Temptation of the Enemy, and so thy Land will be at rest, and enjoy her Sabbaths, and thy Habitation will be full of Joy, as a Land redeemed from Unrighteousness, which caused it to mourn, and was as a desolation; but now thy Land is plowed up, and tilled and sown, and is as a Garden waiting for the Rain that cometh often upon it, which causeth the Seed sown in it to spring, and so thou becomest as a fruitful Tree planted in the Garden of God, which receives nourishment from on High, and is as a Tree planted by the Rivers of Water, that brings forth Fruit in due season, whereby God is glorified, and his great Name exalted; and all such tender Hearts will be kept humble, low and broken before the invisible powerful God, feeling his dread and power over them daily; And here all wait for the Motions of Life, that by it they may be renewed in the Spirits of their minds, and so are kept fresh and lively, inwardly, as Olive-branches, and such are received into the House of the Lord, where they sit together at his heavenly Table, who are the true Guests that have obeyed the Invitation and Call of God, who are invited to the Marriage-Supper of the Lamb, who sit down first in the lowest Room, until the Master of the House say unto them, *Friends, go up higher.*

And so my dear Brethren and Sisters, with whom my Soul feels a true unity in the Faith, and whose travail is my travail, and your sorrow is my sorrow, and your joy is my joy, I beseech you all abide in this low Valley of Humility, for here my Soul is refreshed with you, and here is safety and a sure dwelling, and a quiet resting place. And that Spirit which would compass the Mountains, and live loosely in the Wilderness, will be tyed and bound, as *Jacob's* Prophecy includes the wild Asses Colt, which must be bound to the choicest Vine, for whosoever goes after that Spirit becomes like unto it, airy, light and vain, and may gather much into the Comprehension, and stand decked as a painted Harlot; but surely that Spirit joyns not to the Lord:

so that all may try the Spirits in those dayes, for it was a word spoken in due season in the days of Old, by a faithful Servant and Minister of Christ, when that Mystery of Iniquity began to work, he exhorts the Churches of Christ, *to try the Spirits*. So as all keep to the Power of the Lord in the Light, they will be kept in a weighty sense of the same, and by it they will be instructed indeed, and led in the clear Way of Life, in which all will be tried, judged and weighed, and all things manifested and revealed, be it never so secret; the Light and glorious risings of the day of the Lord, declares all the Thoughts, Words and Actions, and by following the leadings of the true Light, are many brought to know the Truth, which is Christ Jesus, who is the same, yesterday, to day and forever, who is the Foundation which God hath laid, which stands sure, the way to the Father, whose eternal Power and Virtue works out all Transgression in the Heart, as its believed and obeyed; and by his Power and Virtue the whole Hearts comes to be cleansed, as a little Leaven leavens the whole Lump; and this is the means which God hath ordained for the saving of the Soul, and all that come to him, and believe in his Appearance, who is the brightness of his Fathers Glory, the true Light of men, they have part in him, who is the Resurrection and the Life, who is the first and the last, *and the second Death shall have no Power over them*; and by this we know he is alive, though put to Death in the flesh without the Gates of *Jerusalem* above sixteen hundred years ago, who hath quickned our mortal Bodies, and now his Ministration is in force, who is a quickening Spirit, a sure Teacher that cannot be removed into a Corner; and blessed are all that are come to know this Teacher, that hath obtained an Everlasting Priesthood and an Everlasting Name, though wicked Men intended to extinguish the very Remembrance of him by crucifying him upon the Cross, and did as much as in them lay to beget a Perpetual Dis-esteem of him in the Hearts of all People, by plating a Crown of Thorns upon his Head, and by Spitting in his face and Buffeting him; yet he hath obtained an Everlasting Name, and there is an Everlasting Remembrance of him, according to the determination of the Father among his Saints and People, whose Body was broken for us, as he said unto his Disciples, figuring out to them by breaking of Bread and taking the Cup, how his Body should be broken. So he is the true Bread that comes down from Heaven, which is the substance

substance of the Figure; and all that know him come in Spirit, and are faithful to him, know the breaking of the true Bread, and the drinking of the true Cup, which is the Communion of his Body and Blood, which gives Life to the Soul; and thus hath God ordained for his People forever, as the Ministration is unchangeable, so the Ordinance is unchangeable; and this is beyond the carnal Ordinance, which perish with the using.

So now, all are to wait in the Power, Vertue and Strength of this heavenly Bread, for the Renewings of the same day by day, and this is the way for all to be truly satisfied and staid in a sure dependance upon the Lord; for here is no want, and where there is nothing wanting, there is a great Blessing: And truly there is nothing comparable to this Treasure, to have the heart fill'd with the Blessing of God; this is the hidden Treasure, no man knows this but such as receive it, its as the *White Stone* wherein the New Name is, & *we have this Treasure in Earthen Vessels, that the Excellency of the Power may be known to be of God, and not of us*; and all such as believe in the Record that God hath given of his Son, are they that are Heirs of the Kindom, prepared for them before the Foundation of the World, being come to the New-Testament, which is in force; and all that are not come to the New-Testament to know its Ministration, and the powerful operation of it in their Hearts, are not the true Children, nor Heirs of the Kingdom of God; for all that are Heirs of the Kingdom must know the New Birth, and become as little Children brought forth into Innocency by the power and spirit of Christ Jesus; and then they come to know the Power and Life of the Son of God in the Resurrection of their souls, as they are awakened out of the deep sleep of *Sin and Death*, and so arise out of the Dust of the Earth, all such become Children of God, and come to shake themselves from the Dust, and put on their beautiful Garments, so that all may be clothed with Life and Immortality, and arise and shine, for the true Light is come; thy Glory and Beauty, *O Sion!* is come, blessed are thy Children forever and ever; for the Lord God is their Comforter, yea, Morning after Morning he lifts up the Light of his Countenance upon them, and his holy Arm guides thy Sons and Daughters: O blessed People! fear not, its he that supports you in all Temptations, Tryals and Exercises; Oh! let nothing stand within you that may oppose the Love of God or hinder the springs of Life from flowing forth to your souls; for  
truly



truly the Lord waits to be gracious unto you more and more; and as all is broken down that opposeth the Power of God within, so unto all will Life flow forth as a living stream. And so, dearly beloved Friends, let us all stand over the Temptations and Snares of the Devil, and feel in our Souls the Power and Dominion of our beloved, which is that which gets the Victory; and so we shall be preserved clean and spotless to our God unto the end, as we daily wait in the Assurance of this righteous Plant planted in our Souls, which brings forth for us the precious Fruits of Peace and Joy; and as we travel on in the Way of Life, here we may rest our selves under these holy Branches, and find a pure renewing of our strength; and so we shall run and not be weary, and walk and not faint.

So the Lord God of Heaven and Earth keep you all, my dear Brethren and Sisters, and open unto your Breathing Souls more and more, that you may all drink daily at the Rivers of his pleasure, and as his Lambs and little Ones all may be born up at all seasons, and carried on to the sure Fold; and let my Father cause the Bowels of his Pity to flow forth towards you all, and let the God of my strength be with you all, saith my soul, who are Travellers with me; and in all your secret Encounters with your Souls Adversary, let the Lord cover you with his Power, and overshadow you with his Glory, and give you Dominion, that we may travel together in a holy Society, and in the antient Gospel fellowship still pressing towards the mark of the price of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus; that when these Bodies of ours shall go to their long Home, we may have Confidence in the Lord in that day, that our Souls may be filled with heavenly Assurance, in being joyned to the Lord in his everlasting Covenant of Light and Life, that for evermore we may sing of his Mercies, and offer up living Praises to him that lives forever, who is over all in Heaven and in Earth, to whom be Glory and Honour for evermore, Amen.

*Your dear Friend and Fellow-Traveller in the Way of Truth,  
and Fellowship of the Gospel,*

R. S.

## FRIENDS;

**N**OW if any professing the Truth of God should grow careless in their Travail, and let deadness come over their Hearts, and a Vail over their Understandings, the Power of Darknes will rule and reign over them again. Now there is a Power that quickens and keeps alive to God, and searches the Heart daily, and keeps the Creature in a true sense of his own state and condition; and there is a Power which quickens not to God, but leads into Darknes and Drynes, and clouds and veils the Understanding, so that if a man or woman be not continually watchful, this Spirit will enter into the Heart, and then the Creature loseth the sense of his Condition; and this is the Spirit of the Prince of Darknes which now ruleth in the Children of Disobedienc, which leads into Disobedienc where now it rules; and whosoever have professed the Truth, and are gone from it, who had any taste of it, its because they grow careless, as Israel did, after they came out of the Land of Egypt, and the sense of the Presence of God comes to be lost, and so the Heart goes again into the Earth; and being without the sense of Gods Presence, the former Lusts and vile Affections come again to live, which formerly were slain, and having in measure taken them captive, whose Captives they were for lack of Obedienc and Watchfulness, such bow down under the Prisoners, and fall under the slain; and such as lose the sense of the gathering Spirit (which gathered all that obey it, in one, and to be of one Heart, and one Mind, and to bear with one another, and forgive one another, that the Truth may prosper in particular, and in general, such) will give occasion and take occasion, and so endeavour to make Rents and Divisions, and get into Parties and singular Perswasions, and absent from the Body; surely all such Practices the Spirit of Holiness, which keeps from the Pollutions of the World, judges and condemns, and is utterly against that which would make Divisions in the Church; And therefore whosoever is concerned, who hath let in that old seditious contentious Spirit, I warn them in the Name of the Lord God of Heaven and Earth; That by the Spirit of Love and Meekness, which is the Spirit of the Lamb that gathers together, and keeps all that are obedient unto it, that by that Spirit they may speedily judge down that Spirit of Contention, otherwise they will dwell in a dry Land, and they will come short of the purchased Possession, and Land of Promise, and Rest, which is prepared for the faithful, whose Hearts are full of the Love of God, which keeps them in true Love and Fellowship one with another: And

who are careless in this day, who have received a Lamp, and could say, That they were planted in the Garden of God, and are become dry: Oh! my Soul takes up a Lamentation for you, and mourns in secret for that innocent Birth that thou hast seen ready to dye: Oh! my Brother, and my Companion, which sometimes didst feel the pleasant Showers coming down from above upon thy Tabernacle! why is it now withheld from thee? Oh! why hath man caused thee to suffer by his Disobedience? Again arise thou Seed of Jacob, take to thee thy Threshing Instrument, and beat the Mountains to Dust, and the Hills to Chaff: Oh! come away, saith my Soul, hasten out of the Land of Corruption and Filthiness, thou Seed of the Covenant! Many Travellers are travelling from City to City, and from Country to Country, for thy sake, that thou mayst be comforted: Oh! how hath the Lord appeared? how hath he many times scattered the Clouds that thou mayst see the Sun, and hath man and woman been pitiless of thee, and shewed no Mercy? Surely he shall have Judgment without Mercy, that shewed no Mercy: What! hath man pitied Babylon's Children that should have been slain, and thou suffer? Oh! the unmerciful men, who have fallen a sleep when there was good Seed sown, and let the Enemy come in whilst they slept, and sow Tears amongst the Wheat? Oh! Return, ye lost Sheep of the House of Israel! for yet there is hope, there is yet a day; if ye will remember, and call to mind when ye were in the Fathers House; surely for the sake of the innocent Birth that hath suffered I have had a sore Travel upon my Spirit many dayes, and for the clearing of my Conscience in the sight of God is thus written, that whosoever hath profest the Truth and lost the sense of their Conditions, may remember their first Love, that the Heavens may rain down upon them, and the Earth may bring forth Righteousness, that Jacob may flourish, and Israel may encrease as the Stars of Heaven, yea, that the Kingdoms of this World may become the Kingdoms of the Lord and of his Christ, that he may reign forever and ever: Surely my Soul can speak of the goodness of the Lord in the Land of the Living, and with those that praise the Lord this day, my Soul saith, Praises and Thanks be given, and Strength, and Honour, and Glory, and Blessing be unto the Lamb, whom we Worship, and Magnifie, and Bow before, and cast all our Crowns before his Throne, who by us is preached, who is the Foundation of the House which the Lord is building, and them who build upon him, their Building will remain as the Foundation remains, which will not be burnt, but will abide the Fire in the day of the Lord. Written by a Servant of the Lord, in obedience to the Spirit of Truth, which leads out of Sin, into all Truth,

R. S.

## A Loving Salutation and Exhortation to the Children of Light, who are born again of the *Seed Immortal*.

**T**He dear Salutation of my Love reacheth unto you, and my Life is bound up in the heavenly Fellowship and Unity of Life with you all, who have seen the Travail of your Souls in the New-birth, and are come to see the rending of the Vail that sometimes was over you, who are brought out of Darknes into his marvellous Light, wherein you now wait upon the living God to feel the divine Virtue and heavenly Life of the Immortal Seed, unto whom all the Promises of God are yea and amen, unto eternal Life, in whom we have Redemption through his Blood, even the Forgiveness of sins, in whose Light is Eternal Life, and all that live, and abide, and walk therein, they come to receive the blessed Showers of the Dew of Life, which comes down as the Dew upon the Morning Grass, and as showers to water the Earth, and hereby you are made as a well watered Garden, and blessed from season to season, and are planted in the Lords holy Mountain, where you may become fruitful from day to day, and from year to year, and grow and shoot forth your Branches more and more through the Incomes of the tender Love of God, being gathered and planted by him, and become his Vineyard, Oh ! that we may grow up to his Praise, and be a People forever to his Glory, and watch truly and faithfully in his divine Light, that his eternal Arm we may feel to preserve our Souls from day to day, and always live in a sense of what we were in our lost undone estate, before our God did find us out, and gather us from the barren desolate Hills and Mountains, where we were involved in the thick Darknes, and scattered from the true Fold, as Sheep without a Shepherd ; and this is Gods eternal Love to poor lost man, to set up a certain Light in his dark Heart, to lead him out of all the lost fallen ways of the first *Adam*, and out of all false Forms and corrupt sinful Worship, into the true Worship of the Father in  
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the Spirit and in the Truth; and you, *dear Children*, have done well to take heed unto this divine Light, which is the sure Word of Prophecy, whereby you are come to the dawning of Christ's heavenly day, and to the rising of the blessed Day star in your hearts; and this did set us in the view of our lost Conditions, and how we were driven out from God, and lying in the Bonds of Death, which came over us because of sin, in the fall of the first *Adam*, and bearing his Image, who is of the Earth, earthy, and here the floods of Wickedness came over our Heads, and so we by Nature were Children of Wrath, even as others, in which we lay many a year, and it was the Lords Love to us in letting us see our selves as we were; and so we know that the true Light is come, the just Witness, which reproves for every secret evil Thought, Word and Action; and being thus brought to the Judgment seat of Christ, who is come to judge the Earth in Righteousness, and the People with Equity, and lying under the Condemnation of the spirit of the Lord, this was a terrible Day, a Day of shaking and trembling, and full of sorrow.

And in this sorrowful state were we when the Lord first found us, whose glorious Power did then arise, to make way for our Souls to come unto him out of Darkness and Captivity, then did he overthrow the old corrupt Buildings in the sinful wayes and professions of his holy Name, and raised up a new Heart within us, and brought us out of the dead Forms and Traditions of the world, into his spiritual Worship, where we feel acceptance with God through Jesus Christ, and he hath discovered the ancient Rock and Foundation, which remains and abides forever, and he is creating a new Heaven and a new Earth, wherein Righteousness must dwell, and the old Heaven and old Earth is passing away; and this is beautiful to behold, where all is in a heavenly Frame and blessed Order; and this God is a doing this day, that he may dwell in his People, and walk in them, and seal his Promises to them, that they may be his People, and he their God forever; and this is the Day of the breakings forth of the everlasting Light of Righteousness, whereby the Darkness is to be extinguished, and the Works of Darkness thereby are discovered, and all false ways comprehended, and all the Worships and dead Forms set up in the Darkness, are all measured, and they are found too short to lead to Gods Kingdom. So the day is come, wherein the Lord hath breathed forth of the Breath of Life into

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the slain, and his living Power is risen in many Hearts, and the Souls of many are awakned, and they are standing up from the Dead, and Christ hath given light unto them, and the breathings of his pure Life hath passed upon them, who were as dry Bones in the open Vallies, exceeding dry, whose Bones were dried, and whose Hope was lost, which the living Spirit of God hath enlivened, and brought together Bone unto his Bone, and this is his workmanship, created again in Christ Jesus, begotten into the new Creation, by the Seed immortal, where all is fitly framed and joynd together and feels the Life one in another, and can sit together in their heavenly places in Christ Jesus, and feel the Dew of Life, which God in this his day is showering down upon them, whereby they are refreshed, and kept green and lively from day to day; and thus God is binding up the Hearts of many that have been broken, and healing the stroke of their Wounds, and this did cause gladness to spring up in our Souls, after the Morning of his tender Love did break forth upon us, when anguish of Spirit did pass away, & those Cryes and Pangs were taken out of our Habitations: Oh! who have seen this day, and can forget the great love of God in their first tender Visitation? surely (none) but such as grow careless by the way; and therefore you sensible Ones, who retain your first Love, who have not given away your Virginity, but remember the day of your Espousals, and keep your selves clean and unspotted of the Sins of the World, happy and blessed are you forever, as you hold fast your inward fence daily, of your betrothing unto the Lord, and keep in true and unfeigned Love with him, and let out your Affections after him, who cannot be satisfied, but as you daily enjoy his heavenly presence, these are the true born Children of the immortal Seed, who shall see more and more of the secrets of him that hath begotten them, and their portion is in the first Resurrection, on whom the second Death shall have no Power; and there is no Tryal nor Temptation can come to try them, but through his permission, who hath all Power and Judgment given unto him in Heaven and in Earth, who can bind and loose, and shut and open at his pleasure, and it is to try the Faith and Patience of his People, that he suffers them to be tryed with divers Temptations, but not above their ability; for as he is lookt unto, and waited for, he makes way for his afflicted Ones to escape, and he gives them strength, and makes them able to bear it, who shut



up the Adversary, and expels away the Clouds of his Temptations, and so he keeps his redeemed Ones in his Covenant of Life and Peace, where they come to enjoy the beautiful seasons of his eternal Love, which is precious to that Soul that hath known a winterly season, when they come to the singing of Birds, and to hear the Turtle's Voice in their Land.

Oh! my *dear Friends*, the Lord is folding in of his People, and leading them to his own holy Mountain, where he is feeding and nourishing of them in his living presence; and their dwelling place is within the strong Munition, where their Bread is sure, and their Waters never fail, and here they may walk safely and have Joy and Gladness within their Habitations; and these Children of God are hid and preserved in the secret of his presence, and in the hallow of his hand, from the Wrath of Man, and from the Strife of Tongues, where the Devil cannot reach to destroy their Life, although he often ventures hard for it with his fiery Darts, and Arrows, in the darkness of his Temptations, and that which would waste even at Noon-day, who would close with the Creature after divers manners, and where the Watch ceaseth he will get place: but the true Birth cannot sit down at ease, but is still travelling towards the Rest prepared, and here the Enemy is always discerned, and he cannot beget such into any likeness or imitation, or settle them down in a persuasion of heavenly Enjoyments, when they have not attained to the enjoyment of them, because their Souls lie open to the Eye of the great searcher and tryer of the Heart and Reins, and they hunger and thirst daily after him, and nothing can satisfy them but the Bread of Life administred unto their Souls, which their heavenly Father gives them, according as they cry unto him; and this keeps from wandering and hunting abroad, and this will out-live all false Births, and shall reign in dominion with its heavenly Father, for its Life is hid in him, and it daily waits in true content, for Life to open unto it, and it seeks nothing more than Gods glory, neither loves any thing in comparison of him, and unto all such the Lord is all in all, and as they enjoy him, they enjoy all, for he is their Riches and Substance, which will out-last all the Riches and Glory of the World; and thus we have a heavenly Treasure in our earthen Vessels, which is the earnest of that Inheritance which will never fade away, reserved in Heaven for us, if we hold out unto the end; and these true born Children wait to be taught of the

the Lord, and furnished with daily strength by him; and if they want the renewings of his Love to be continued with them, nothing can procure peace and satisfaction unto them, but they go bowed down before him, and lift up their Cryes in secret unto him, and these be they that the Lord delights in, for they bow down and dwell low before him, in a humble state, and such the Lord delights to teach, and open himself unto, and the Meek he guides in Judgment, and here the invisible Life flows forth into their Souls, and they live in that which will remain, although there Tryals are many, and Assaults and Temptations not a few, yet they renew their strength through waiting upon the Lord, and mount up as on Eagles Wings, and they run and are not weary, and walk and are not faint; and all that are short of this humble Life and lowly Spirit, who go out of the Light, and hunt abroad, they will come short of the Blessing, as *Esau* did, who let in the Enmity, and the Enmity will enter, and Self will get up again, if the Mind and Heart goes out after the earthly drawings of the spirit of the world, then the Wrath and Malice, and the old leaven of Hypocrisie will enter again, and here the Envy will have a place, and this blinds the Understanding, and is quite opposit to the true Seed, whose Life and Vertue is only enjoyed, as there is a dwelling in the lowliness and true humility, and the blessing is unto such forever. And so this *Esau* that goes forth out of the Lords counsel, and lets in the Violence against his Brother *Jacob*, the Lord will lay his Mountaine waste, and God is setting Saviours upon Mount *Sion*, to judge the Mount of *Esau*, and the Kingdom shall be the Lords; and so for want of watchfulness the Heart goes after the Adversary, and so its stolen away from following the Lord, and the Creature loseth the sense of his own condition, and sees not his own weakness and insufficiency; and the sense of the subduing Power of God not being waited for, whereby the Snarcs of the Enemy are overcome, and the Creature preserved in the Light of Righteousness, (the Mind being in the holy liberty and freedom of the Spirit of the Lord) here comes in dryness & barrenness, and luke-warmness and indifferency, as to the service of Truth, and by this way the Enemy enters to corrupt and defile those that profess the Truth, and to bring Death and Darkness over them again: Therefore let us cry unto the Lord for preservation in this needful day; who have through the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ escaped the Pollutions of the World, and are gather-

ed from their lost ways, and redeemed by his out-stretched Arm and Power, and let us remember how *Israel*, after they came out of *Egypt*, for want of Faith and Patience, perished in the Wilderness and how the Enemy wrought after divers manners, and by divers ways, to corrupt them in their travels, of which he is not wanting this day, as the backslidings and corrupt doings of some that profess the living Truth beareth witness, whereby the Innocent go mourning all the day long, and Innocency is oppressed, and grieved in many places, whose righteous Cause the Lord will plead in his own time; and you may consider how that those in old time, as I said before, did not fall all at once, neither did they perish all after one manner, but at certain times, and after several manners; for some for the Sin of Murmuring, were destroyed by Serpents; others were smitten, who fell into lust-ing; others that joyned themselves to the Sin of the *Moabites*, and separated themselves from the Life of Purity, and fell into that shameful Sin of Fornication, there fell of them in one day three and twenty thousand; others sate down to Eat and Drink, and rose up to Play, and so set themselves in opposition against the Lord, and fell into a disquieted Spirit, and whilst they were in *Egypt* again, and cryed against *Moses* and *Aaron*, as though they had deceived them, for said they, *He hath not given us Possessions of Fields and Vineyards, neither hath he brought us into a Land flowing with Milk and Honey*: And thus they supposed to have covered their impatient backsliding Hearts, by rising up in opposition against *Moses*, and that the Deceit was in him, and that he intended to enslave the People, and set forth his own Glory, and promote himself: And you may see how the Lord took notice of them, and brought them to Contempt and Shame in the sight of the Congregation, who dyed not the common Death of all men, neither were they visited according to the Visitation of all men, for they went down alive into the Pit, and so perished.

So let us wait upon the Lord that we may not fall into these Temptations, but be of *Caleb* and *Joshua's* Spirit (who travelled with those Murmurers, Idolaters and Opposers, but fell not with them in those Temptations) who followed the Lord fully, so that we may never sit down at ease, now God hath brought us to a good Profession; yea, I may safely say, to *Mount-Sion*; yet if any here grow careless, now God hath given Gifts unto them, and they sit down at ease, the Wo from the Lord God will be unto them; for

its possible the Enemy may enter into the Profession of the Truth, and corrupt such as lend an ear to him, but into the Life of Truth he can never enter; Therefore let us be very earnest with the Lord for his daily Aid and Assistance, that we may be always found in the spirit of Truth, which is the ground of the true Christian Religion, and may be a People to his Glory in our Generation, where the spirit of Sanctification we may daily feel to sanctifie us throughout, in Soul, Body and Spirit; and so we shall be preserved from the Murmurings and false Ease, and from the Devourings of the old Opposer, who cares not if we perish and fall into a dying estate again, which indeed will fall to the share of such as rise up against the Lord, to stop him from bringing forth his determination; for a Blast is gone out from the Lord, and perpetual Blasting and Withering will overtake them; and so Death will come up in their Dwellings, and into Trouble and Anguish, under the Wrath of God they will go again, and Death will come over them while they are alive; and this is the greatest plague to be hurt with the second Death, and lose their part in the first Resurrection, and to have the Name blotted out of the Book of Life, and out of the holy City: And therefore let us dwell low in the holy Awe and fear of the Lord, who hath brought us to the day of his endless Love, which Day many Prophets and Wise Men desired to see, wherein he is scattering his Enemies, and laying Judgment to the Line and Righteousness to the Plummets, that he may ease the Creation of the burden of Sin it hath long groan'd under, in this Everlasting Day, in which shall be abundance of Peace so long as the Sun and Moon endures, and all the faithful and true-hearted Ones, in whose Hearts his Fear remains, cannot depart from him, because he alone works deliverance for them, and is as a Shepherd over them, to feed them and supply all their Wants from day to day, and therefore they rejoyce before him, and worship him day and night in his Temple: Oh! how can we forget the day of our Espousals, and the endless Love of God to our Souls, who hath made us Members of that Church of which Christ is head, which he hath betrothed to himself in Righteousness, in Loving-kindness, and in tender Mercies, and when we drank of the Brooks by the way, when we found Rivers opened in dry places, and streams in the Desert, when the Glory of the Lord brake through the thick Darknes, as the streams of an overflowing Fountain to reach to the dry and parched Ground; this

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was a day of joy indeed, when the Lord our God was laying open his tender Mercies to our view, that our souls might be drawn out of trouble and sorrow, into the bosom of his Love, and sweet it was to run the ways of his Commandments in this day, and nothing was too hard to go through, that appeared against us, that by us the Lord might be honoured, and in this our souls were refreshed, when nothing was minded more than the concerns of his blessed Truth; and where this fervent zeal lives for the Lord, happy are such, for they are the chosen of the Lord, who have made their calling and election sure, and his heavenly Testimony is bound up with them, and amongst them is his Law sealed, and their shoulders are set together in his work and service, and they can serve him with one shoulder and with one consent, and they are the beloved of the Lord, who shall lie down in safety, and his Loving-kindness shall never depart from them, although the Hills and Mountains may be removed; and these are fruitful Branches in the Vine, who continue in the Well-doing, and are in Christ, as living Members and Bones full of Marrow and Fatness, feeling the life and freshness in each other, who are created, formed and brought forth into a Body, in order fitly framed by Christ, their Head, being fashioned by him who is the great Former and Maker of all things for a purpose of his own Glory; and every Member of this Body must know its Place and Office, that it may work together with the Body, in the service and Practice of the pure Religion; and so the stream of Life goes through every Member, and here the Seed of Life grows, and this preserves in the universal Love and Unity, which cannot stand but as Life is felt, and the spirit of Love dwells in the hearts, and this works out the Enmity, and here all shortness and brittleness comes to be wrought under, by the virtuous Life and Seed of the Kingdom; here the grain of Mustard-seed grows over all the Herbs in the Garden, and the little Leaven leavens the whole lump, and such will grow and be enlarged more and more in the knowledge of God, and in the universal Faith, both of the Principle and Practice of Religion; here will not be only a confession of the Light, but also a walking in it; here will not be a Faith concerning the Principle of Truth only, but of the Practice of Truth also; and these are the true Travellers towards Heavens Kingdom, who live the Life of Religion, who labour while its called to day, because the light cometh wherein none can work; and these have the Har-

mony of Life within their Habitations, and these are the Lambs which the Lord carries in his Arms, and he comforteth their mourning Souls, and makes their heavy Hearts truly to rejoyce; Oh! therefore let us live alwayes in subjection to his heavenly Power, feeling his Everlasting Arm to compass us about, that we may magnifie his great Name, beholding his wonderous Works, and seeing his Goodness in the Land of the living, that we may tell our Children after us, what God hath done for our souls, that they may declare it to another Generation, that the Ages to come may delight to seek him, and wait for his heavenly Appearance. And so, in his divine Light let us daily wait with our minds staide upon the Lord, that we may be supported by him, and carried through all Tryals and Exercises which may appear to hurt or wound the Heritage of the Lord, which in this day the old Adversary and Destroyer of the Peace of *Sion* seeks to lay waste, as in former dayes; but as all abide in the Light, his Temptations are seen, and all his cunning crafty mysterious Workings, whereby many have been defiled, to the hurt of their own souls; and so being watchful in the Light, here the bruising breaking Power of our Lord Jesus Christ goes over his head; and hereby the old Serpent comes to be kept under, and sealed down under the feet of Gods anointed, and Judgment brought forth into Victory over him, in whom is our Life and Salvation, and without him we can do nothing; therefore how ought every one of us to have our Minds staide in his divine Light, that the Lords Power we may daily feel, to keep us in a daily preparation for his heavenly appearance, that he may take delight in us to teach us of his wayes, and open to our Understandings the Mysteries of his Kingdom, which Eye hath not seen, neither hath Ear heard, but it is reveal'd unto us by the Spirit, which searcheth all things, even the deep things of God; and so we shall encrease in the heavenly Wisdom, which is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easie to be entreated, which indeed becomes us, seeing many Eyes are upon us, and we are as a City set on a Hill, which cannot be hid, whose Builder and Maker is God; and it was the Lord that brought us to be a People who were not a People, that we should be partakers of the Riches of his Grace, and should walk according to his Commandments in all things, and put off the old man with his Deeds, and leave off the carnal Weapon, and deny our selves of our own strength as men, so that we cannot use such means to help our selves, as others do, who are thirsting after



after Blood, to gain their Religion by outward Force and Cruelty, but must follow the Commandment of our Lord and Master, who said, *If ye be smitten on the one Cheek, turn the other also; which signifies that his People must not seek for Revenge, but love their Enemies, do good to them that hate them, and pray for them that despitefully use them and persecute them.*

And this hath been our Doctrine and Testimony from the beginning, and we can pray for our Enemies, that God may open their Understandings, and that his heavenly Power may reach their Hearts, that unto the saving Light of his Son Christ Jesus, which enlightneth them, they may be turned, and so escape the Day of Wrath and Vengeance, which God will bring upon the Ungodly. And therefore, all Friends, look to your Way, and walk on in the Covenant of Life and Peace, and follow the meek and quiet Spirit of the Lamb, who came into the World not to destroy mens Lives, but save them, whose Kingdom is a heavenly Kingdom, and his Dominion that shall never pass away, which is more durable than all the worldly Kingdoms; therefore as his Kingdom is not of this World, his Servants cannot fight, for the Weapons of our Warfare are spiritual, and we are come to Christ, who removes the ground of Wars, which is the lust in the Heart of man, which spreads abroad in the Members; but Christ leads into the New Covenant of Peace, where the haughtiness and loftiness of Man is brought down and abased, and the Lord alone is exalted; and here the Enmity is slain, and the spirit of Strife judged down, which disorders the whole Creation, and sets Nation against Nation, and Kingdom against Kingdom, and one Man against another, so that this is the ground from whence Strife and Contention comes, to wit, the *Enmity*, which the Devil brings into the Heart, in the disobedient state; but in Christ the Love, Peace and Unity ariseth, and is largely extended to the whole Creation, and in him both *Jew and Gentile, Barbarian, Scythian, Bond and Free, Male and Female* come to be all one, though formerly Enemies unto God, and one to another; here they come to the true Reconciliation, and to the perfecting the work of Regeneration, and so sit down in the Covenant of Everlasting Peace, where the Sword is beaten into a Plow-share, and the Spear into a Pruning hook, and so they learn War no more; but in the Light of Jesus meet, and sit together in heavenly places, where God is enlarging *Japhat*, in the assurance of the Promise of being gathered  
more

more and more into the Blessing of *Abraham*, that he may dwell in the Tents of *Shem*.

And so, you Children of Gods heavenly Day, to whom his Love is largely extended, who hath been and is a tender Father unto us, so that we can trust him with Soul and Body, Wife and Children, House and Lands, and unto such is the Promise of Eternal Life, who said, *He that seeks to save his Life shall lose it, but he that loseth his Life for my sake shall find it*; so this is a Promise beyond Death and over the Grave, and happy are they that can leave all with the Lord, for he changes not, neither doth he alter his way, who hath been with us in the needful time, and many sweet Deliverances our God hath wrought for us, when encountered with Enemies upon every hand, who hath defended us and pleaded our innocent Cause, when men rose up against us, so that we may say, *Except the Lord had been on our side, they had swallowed us up quick*: Therefore let us serve him with Reverence and godly Fear, in the feeling of his blessed Power, that we may be preserved from the Evil of this Perilous Day, wherein the Enemy works by various ways, and after divers manners, to lead back again into the Earth, and to take up a Rest by the way, in a polluted ground, which some through carelessness have done, who have not put that value upon the Truth as they ought, but sold their Birth-right, like *Esaú*, for a mess of Pottage; and so the earthly carnal Mind comes over such, and they lust after Evil things, and go into the World and learn their ways: Oh! the Lord will ease himself of such, as he did of those in the days of old, who forgot him after they had seen his Wonders in *Egypt*, and in the Land of *Ham*, and the terrible things he did for them by the Red Sea; for what will it avail us, if we should see never so much of the Wonders of God in the beginning, if we abide not faithful unto the end? And you may consider, how the lives of some were spared, and their days prolonged forty years, and all that while they were grieving the Lord with their own Inventions, sometimes how they might make Gods to go before them, and then to make a Captain over them, to turn again into *Egypt*; and these things were invented, and this spirit came up amongst them that were famous in the Congregation. And so, blessed are all who keep in the living sense of the Power of the Lord, whereby Self comes under, and is buried down in the Grave, over which, as all stand in the Life of Jesus, they will be crucified, with him,

and

and his life and Spirit over all (in such) will reign, and the life (of such) that they now live will be by the Faith of the Son of God; and here is the pure Dominion of Christ exalted, and his Government set up over all; and such are come to the pulling down all Rule, Power and Authority under his feet, who must reign till all Enemies be put under him, such are come to the delivering up the Kingdom unto him, whom God hath highly exalted at his own right hand, unto whom Angels, Authorities and Powers must be in subjection, who have known the Overturnings and Wars, and Combats between the two Seeds, and are come to the day of Righteousness, and to the taking of the strong Man, and spoiling his Goods, and overthrowing his sinful Kingdom and Dominion inwardly, so that now a People can say, *Salvation and strength is come, and the Kingdom of our God is come, and the Power of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.* So now, the last Enemy that shall be destroyed is Death, and this is a Mystery; for the *Corinthians*, unto whom this was spoken, were short of the true Understanding thereof, being many of them turned out into the Wisdom of the World, and thought the Kingdom stood in Words, Meats, Drinks and the like, when it stands in the Power of God, in *Righteousness, Peace and Joy in the holy Ghost*; and therefore the Apostle speaks of the Resurrection of the dead, and the delivering up the Kingdom, & of the last Enemy, which is to be destroy'd; I say, he spake of these things to them in a Mystery, which the world by Wisdom knows not; and it is not the speaking, though with Tongues of Men and Angels, nor Knowledge, nor a Profession of the true Faith that will make us acceptable with God, but as we are in the Love and Unity with Christ, the Truth, here we shall be kept in the Life of Truth, out of the deadness and dryness of the first Nature; and here we shall still have a clear Discovery of the Wiles and cunning Devises of this Enemy, which if we watch not against him, he will deceive us at last. And so, all that keep their Habitations in the pure Life, over this spiritual Enemy, who goes about like a roaring Lyon, seeking whom he may devour, they come to stand in the Testimony of Life, over Death, and him that hath the Power of it; and herein the true joy of the Redeemed stands, when they can say, *O Death! where is thy Sting? O Grave! where is thy Victory?* And there is no true Joy to the Soul, but as it inwardly feels Power over Temptations of the Adversary. And you may consider how cunningly this Enemy came in among the Professors

Professors of Truth in the Apostles dayes in the Churches of *Carmine* and *Galatia*, and into the seven Churches of *Asia*, and what various wayes he wrought by to bring the Lords Heritage into desolation, as might largely be spoken of, but its not with me to enlarge, further than I feel a necessity upon me from the Lord, to clear my Conscience of those things that have been before me for many dayes, both in my lying down and rising up, and in my travel from place to place; and knowing to whom I write, I am the more satisfied, because the Children of the Lord, who feel their Eyes kept open by the Eye-salve, which Christ anoints them withal, can see beyond words, and how mysteriously the Enemy came in in those dayes; and we may see his work was not so much to turn them out of a Profession of the Truth, as to settle them down in Unrighteousness, and leave them alone in the Profession. And so this Enemy did deceive many, and drew them forth out of their first Love and Tenderneſs, who had his way through Professions, as well as Prophaneneſs, from the beginning; for *Cain* was a Professor who slew his Brother, and the *Jews* were Professors, who slew the Prophets, and Christ Jesus, and they have been Professors who have been killing and murdering about Religion in the night of Apostacy, thinking thereby to get the Kingdom, which the rebuking, condemning Power of God will judge and cast down forever, against which corrupting, defiling, destroying Spirit, the eternal Decree of God is sealed, whole Portion is perpetual Darkneſs, and he and his Angels must be cast into the stream of the Anger and Wrath of God forever; and as this Mystery of Iniquity began to work, so the Lord raised a Testimony against it; and they that were darkned thereby grew careless and negligent in the work and service of the Lord, and forsook the Assembling themselves together, and this was the manner of some; but the advice of him, who was a true Labourer in the Lords Vineyard, was, *To provoke one another to Love and good Works, not forsaking the Assembling your selves together, as the manner of some is; but so much the more as you see the day approaching: So* there was a farther Discovery of the Day of the Lord upon the faithful, although those that were darkned with the Spirit of the World had not the knowledge of the Light, nor sense of it. And so you may see how they over-run themselves, and fell into the way and spirit which *Corah* and *Balaam* did, who were Enemies to the Way and Work of God; for *Balaam* proposed a Way of

Ease to ensnare the Children of *Israel*, in stumbling them with a  
 false Liberty, and yet he saw the Vision of the Almighty, and the  
 goodly Tents of *Jacob*, and the pleasant Dwellings of *Israel*, and  
 the peaceable End of the Righteous man, *and desired that his latter*  
*end might be like his*; and yet he came short of all these Enjoyments:  
 So it is not what we have seen that will bring us to the peaceable  
 end of the Righteous man, except we be found in the Life of it;  
 and those that were out of the Life, what became of them? and  
 what heavy Judgments were pronounced against them? and how  
 unstable were they, when they wandered after the Spirit of the  
 World, and kept not their first estate? so that everlasting Chains  
 were reserved for them, in the blackness of Darkness forever;  
 and some wandered up and down till they went back into the  
 worldly Rudiments and beggarly Elements, and so became Bonds  
 men unto Sin and Satan again. And hereby they lost themselves,  
 and so became Enemies of the Cross of Christ, which is the Power  
 of God; and therefore let us all be faithful in the work and service  
 of the Lord, in as much as we see his heavenly Day approaching  
 more and more, who is enlarging his faithful Ones in the know-  
 ledge of himself, and of the things of his Kingdom, and he doth  
 open the Treasures of Life unto us, and he fills our Wells and  
 Cisterns with living Water: Oh! the Lord is abounding in his  
 Love towards us from day to day, who is carrying on his little  
 Ones, and bearing in his Arms the feeble of the Flock, and lead-  
 ing them into the low Vallies, where he feeds them with Wisdom  
 and heavenly Understanding. And so, let us be low in heart and  
 spirit before the Lord, and we shall know more of his Doctrine;  
 for his Judgments are unsearchable, and his ways past finding out,  
 and his Truth is fresh and living, as it was in the beginning, unto  
 them who dwell in his heavenly Presence, on whom he lifts up the  
 Light of his Countenance; these can say, *His Love is better than*  
*Wine, and the Savour of his Ointment than all Spices*; and their  
 strength is renewed. And as we thus feel the Lord with us, we  
 shall not grow weary nor faint by the way, but shall yet be blessed  
 and prospered in all our Undertakings, our Eye being still to his  
 Honour and Glory, so shall we gain ground upon our Enemies,  
 being watchful continually in the heavenly Light, which is a strong  
 City indeed; Salvation being appointed of God for Walls and  
 bulwarks; and while we abide here, no Destroyer can reach us,  
 but here our Life is kept sweet and savoury where-ever we go,  
 and

and whatsoever we do, and so are kept from falling, and this is the Habitation of the Lords People, and here the Lord leads and guides them by his Counsel from day to day, out of the wayes of this sinful evil World; and so the Way of Life they come to see more and more, and their delight is to walk in the Croſs, to their own wills, and to take the Yoke of Chriſt upon them, that thereby all may be brought under, that is contrary to his mind and will, that his heavenly Image they may bear, and that his Name may be in their Fore-heads, and that is a burden to them, which appears to draw them out of their Innocency, & out of the life of Patience & Humility, which is the ſafety of the Lords heritage; and ſo the Lord is the liſter up of their Heads, and the portion of their Cup forever, and for thoſe Light was ſown, and Joy and Peace, becauſe they are of upright Hearts, but ſuch as go out of the Light, and loſe their watchfulneſs, they ſtumble, and fall, and loſe themſelves, and the Enemy cloſeth with their Underſtandings, and hardens their Hearts, and ſlays the tender ſence of the daily enjoyment of the preſence of the Lord, and ſo being darkned, cannot fathom the Wiles of the Adverſary, and ſo loſe the ſence of their preſent conditions; and hence it is that ſome run into the Faſhions and corrupt Customs of the world, and ſo Pride comes over them under another colour then before, and becauſe its under the profeſſion of the Truth, perſwade themſelves its no ſin, and ſo wander from one thing to another, and ſettle a while in this thing, and a while in that thing, until it goes into the Earth, from whence it came, and there it will have its end, becauſe its of the begetting of the earthly corruptible Spirit; and where the Enemy is let in, and finds a lodging place, the Creation grows more blind and dark every day, and ſuch cannot ſee the beauty of a Self-denying ſtate, and therefore ſome run after the worlds glory, and have haſtned to hurt themſelves (and others) by running into the intanglements thereof, and ſo go out of the way of following Chriſt, and cannot pleaſe him, for he leads out of the World, and ſuch as leave him, and follow the World, are great Enemies to him; for he that loves the World, the love of the Father is not in him.

And therefore let all dwell in the Self-denial, and here you will be preſerved out of the Diſcontent, and out of the Murmuring; ſo you have Godlineſs with content, which is great gain.

And my dear Friends, I cannot but warn you all to beware of

this



this worldly Spirit, which presents the Glory of the World to your view, and take heed lest you bow down thereto, and gain the World, but lose your own Souls; for certainly many adventure very far for this Gain; and I have seen some greatly wounded through letting in the Cares of this Life, and some have hardly escaped that great Sin of Eating and Drinking with the Drunken, and of breaking covenant with God and man, to the great dishonour of God, and hurt of their own Souls, and grief and burden of the Faithful; Oh! the Lord (if their Day be not over) grant them Repentance, saith my Soul. Therefore, *Friends*, how well is it with them who are content, in that estate and condition in which God hath set them, where they prize a Dinner of green Herbs with the Peace of God unto their Souls, better then a stalled one with Strife and Discontent. Oh! my *Friends*, I have much upon me concerning these things, for I have seen the Innocency of some by this Spirit greatly wounded, and if they do not hasten and do their first Work, it will be hard for them to gain their habitation in the Truth again; and if such should dye, having the Name of Virgins only, what will it avail them when the Marriage-Chamber comes to be shut against them? And truly, I am glad I have an opportunity to ease my Spirit of these things; and the Lord make these Lines serviceable wherever they may come, unto such to whom they do belong; and therefore you that are preserved in the Purity of the Truth, wait still with your Loins girt, and your Lights burning; for many ways hath the Enemy to work by in this day; and the Lord suffers an hour of Temptation to come to try the dwellers upon the Earth, and blessed are they who keep the Word of Patience, whereby they are preserved from the force of the Enemy's Temptations, in the life of Truth, where he cannot enter, though he may present himself; but if the Heart grows dead and careless, then his earthly workings take place, and this by little and little vails the understanding, and so the Enmity comes in, and the seed of the Serpent grows up, and so the Love to God and his Truth grows cold, and such grow weary of well doing, and their freedom is not in the service of the Lord and his Truth, and such go out of the glorious Liberty of the Sons of God, whose liberty and freedom stands in his Spirit and Power, where they are free and willing to help forward the Lords work, as true Yoke-fellows together, and workers together with him, who hath called them

to Glory and Vertue; and where there is a persevering in this clouded estate, where the fresh sence of the Love and Life of the Truth is wanting, there will be a sitting down by the way, and such will take up a rest in something short of the true Rest, and so the Creature may create a Peace unto himself, which is not that Peace which is everlasting; and so it doth not pass the knowledge, but is in the knowledge, and may be comprehended, being in the Imaginations, and false Conceptions of the wandering mind; & here Death gets the name of Life, and can tell of the same of Wisdom, although the Creature be in the Death, and you gone into the Darknes again; and this is an ill savour, and grieves and burdens the Living: And some in dayes past fell off into this corrupt Spirit, and turned with the Dog to his Vomit, and with the Sow that was washed unto her wallowing in the Mire, and such run themselves into Sensuality, and grew carnally minded where the Enmity works, and this is the Womb of all Deceit, where the Enemy begets all his false Births; and therefore *to be Carnally minded is Death, but to be Spiritually minded is Life and Peace*: And where the carnal mind is, a false earthly liberty comes in, and the sound upright walking with the Lord comes to be lost, and here is a dying to the sence of the mind of God; and here the Words and Profession may remain for a time; but as he hath planted a Vineyard, so he now expects Fruit, and the Lord grant we, whom he hath planted, may grow up in his Grace, and in the knowledge of himself, that he may bring forth Fruit to his Praise and Glory, else we shall fall under his Wrath, and shall be cut off from amongst the living; therefore being planted in a very fruitful Hill, let us remember *Israel* of old, whom God brought into that good Land, where were pleasant Fields, and fruitful Vines, and God drove out the *Heathen*, and planted them, but afterward they waxed fat and gross, and so became disobedient unto the Lord, and lookt more to their own glory, than to the glory of God; and here they grew high and lofty, and so became stubborn, and they were called *a rebellious House*; for the *Daughters of Sion* became haughty, and walk with stretched-out Necks, and mincing with their Feet; from which the Lord preserve all his People; & then the Lord grew angry with them, and as its said, *abhorred his own Inheritance*, and said, *moreover I will pull down the Hedge that is about this fruitless Vineyard, that brings forth nothing but wild Grapes, and let it go waste*. So you may see that the Lord,

although

although he plants a People, and does Wonders for them, and waters them with his heavenly Dew, yet after all this, if they bring forth not Fruit to his Glory, he is able to pluck them up again, and root them up out of the good Land, as he did *Israel* of old.

And therefore *Friends*, as the Lord hath given a good portion to us, and our lot is fallen in a good place, and we have Gifts, yea, every one of us; Oh! that we may all come to sit down under our own Vine and Fig-tree, in this holy Mountain of the Lord, where the Devourer cannot come, where there is no hurting nor destroying, where we may feed together on the Feast of fat things of his heavenly Kingdom, that we may be settled in an obedient state, and that our rooting may be there, then shall we feel the moisture of the living streams of the River of Life, and shall grow as Willows by the Water-courses, and shall alwayes look up to God from whence all our good comes, and have his Glory and Honour still in our Eye, and we shall abide in his fear, and shall not depart from him; and so we shall remain in this good Land, and the Lord will not repent of the good he hath done for us, but we shall be watered and bedewed with the blessed Showers of his Love and Life more and more. And this is the end of my travail, both in Body and Soul, that all the Lords People may be preserved in the universal Love of God, in the Unity of his holy Spirit, and in the Bond of Peace, that every Member may be supplied with Joynts and Bands, that all may be pliable and serviceable in the Body, rejoycing together every Member in its place and order, being tempered together, so that no Dross nor Putrifaction can come between their Souls and the Lord, being purged and purified in the Furnace of God, with the spirit of Judgment, and the spirit of Burning, and so melted together into a compleat Body, fashioned and fitly framed by the only wise God, and every Member is for its proper place & service, and is created not to be idle: and this Body is not divided in its self, neither is there two Spirits bearing rule in it; and this Body bears the heavenly Image of the Father, that hath begotten it, and its life is hid with Christ in God, and him alone it seeks, and such have made a blessed choice, having forsaken the World for Christs sake, who is more to them than any visible thing; surely this is the *Lamb's Wife*, who is Bone of his Bone, and Flesh of his Flesh, and for such the Marriage-Chamber is prepared, and the fine  
Linnen,

Innen, and the Feast of fat things; and these seek nothing more than the assurance of Heaven's Kingdom; and they see from day to day that nothing will stand them in stead, but the very Seal of Gods everlasting love; and this is *Sion*, which is a City at unity with its self, and all her Children are known unto God, and one to another, in the one Spirit from whence their Life comes; and although one Member may appear more eminent than another, because of the service its fitted for and called unto, yet the least is felt and owned by the greatest, and the greatest by the least; so that here is a heavenly Harmony in the Body, and pure oneness and agreement amongst the Members, singing and making Melody in their Hearts unto the Lord, and such have the Harps of God, being redeemed from the Earth, and they can sing the Song of *Moses* and the *Lamb*; and this is the great and marvellous Work of God in these last dayes, who hath brought forth his People to *Sion*, where they have Joy and Gladness of heart, and Sorrow and Sighing flies away; and in a sure place hath God set these redeemed Ones to feed; who deals his Bread to their hungry Souls, and nourisheth them in his presence, from the reach of the Serpent, so that neither his Head nor Tayl can draw them out of their Habitations, and these are come into the Garden of *Eden* again, to eat of the Tree of Life, and of the hidden Manna, and this is the unspeakable love of God unto a poor lost undone People, who were as dry Bones in the open Vallies, which the breathing Life and Spirit of God hath revived and quickned, and so being one in Christ Jesus, here is one Heart, one Mind and one Spirit, and by the Spirit are we all baptized into one Body, and made to drink all into one Spirit, and the Lord is known to be one, and his Name one; and here we can serve him with one Shoulder, and with one Consent; and if any should profess themselves to be Members of this Body, and go from the Life and Spirit, whereby every true Member is kept fresh and living, and so are ready to serve the Lord, and one another in their Generation, such go into that which rends and divides; and so from the fallshood of the Adversary, in such who have departed from the Lord, through Ages and Generations, hath the Apostacy entred, and those divers Beasts have risen very different in appearance, one to another, but in the ground all in the Ermyty against Gods appearance, and that which had Horns like a Lamb, yet spake as a Dragon, and exercised the Power of the first Beast,

So that here the Enemy began to work more subtilly; and this has been his manner, where he cannot lead out into open Prophaneness, if he be not watcht against, will lead into a dead lifeless Profession; and what if it cause Fire to come down from Heaven in the sight of men, and causeth them that bow to him, to make an Image to the Beast? and so this is a likeness of the heavenly Fire, but is not that which kindles the acceptable Sacrifice; this is not that which caused the Prayers to ascend as sweet Incense up unto God, and here is danger of being consumed.

And so those Beasts with their Heads and Horns, have been permitted to have their Day, and to continue for a season and time, which the Lord will waste and destroy, and take away their dominion; for the Antient of dayes is come, and his Call is gone forth, and many are come unto him, and he goeth before them, and gives his Judgment to them, whereby they become terrible to their Adversaries as an Army with Banners, so that whatsoever shall yet be permitted to arise in opposition to him, and his followers, they have the promise of overcoming; And therefore put on the whole Armour of Light, that all may be fitted for the Battle of the Lord, that we may not only escape one Snare, and fall into another, but that we may live, and alwayes overcome; and let us press forward, not looking back to those things we have left behind, but feel that mind which would cleave to the World, kept down in the Death, so shall we escape out of the way of that spirit, which lies near this day, which leads into the Excess, and putting off the Service of Truth and grow careless of meeting together to seek the Lord, lest any should come short of the Marriage-Supper of the Lamb, as some of Old, whose Hearts went after the Earth, who were so taken up with worldly concerns, that it was said concerning them, *Not one of these men shall taste of my Supper.* But let us still be found in faithfulness unto the Lord, in one intire watchful state, so shall we hold fast our Souls beloved, and not let him go; and except we keep here, the beloved will soon be lost, and a secret sorrow will come over the Soul again, notwithstanding the former enjoyments of him.

And so, *dear Friends*, wait to feel the overshadowings of him, that under his Wings all may dwell, where the healing vertue is, and what's wanting unto you, that's not yet done, he is sufficient to restore all things, and to bind up your broken Hearts, and  
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heal the sickness of your Souls, and to lead you into the Paths of Joy and Pleasantness, where the Flocks of his Companions feed together, and lie down at Noon: And therefore be encouraged; you true Travellers, keep up your Breast-plate, and have on your Helmet, keep to the sure Hope, and this will anchor your Souls in all Storms and Tempests, and raging Waves of the Adversaries Temptations, which arise against your innocent Life, and so your Hearts are in the valiant power and dominion of him who never fell. Oh! let my Father watch over all his Children, and renew their strength, and support and uphold them forever; and so you that are begotten again unto a lively Hope, who are of the off-spring of that Seed, unto whom the Lord never said, *Seek my Face in vain*; your hungry thirsty Souls he fills, and never sends you empty away, therefore take to you the *Shield of Faith*, and wait yet for his appearance, to bear you up over all your Afflictions, and take the *Sword of his Spirit*, feel the *Word of God* to dwell in you, and let your Hearts and Affections be gathered into the riches of it; for we have a heavenly Treasure in our earthen Vessels, yea, the riches of the Glory of the Mystery, which hath been hid from Ages and Generations, *Christ within, the hope of Glory*; and herein is our sufficiency, and hereby the foolish things of the World are made wise, and weak things made strong, and base despised things honourable; so that it may be said this day, as it was in times past, *You that were not a People, are now the People of God*; and therefore feel your Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace, by which you will be able to tread upon Scorpions, and walk on in the Way of Life, and grow more and more into the Wisdom of God (whose way is perfect) where there are Treasures of Life, and in the Path way thereof there is no Death. And so after all your Labours, Travels and Tribulations in this World, you shall lie down in everlasting Rest: But in this world we meet with Tribulations, and the Lords Heritage is hated, and their Names cast out as evil, and they meet with many obstructions within and without; and this may yet be the portion of his faithful Ones; yet here is our Joy, the Lord hath brought us thus far in our Journey, and we have his Promise, *That as we are faithful to him, he will never leave us, nor forsake us*; and he hath often changed the stormy Winter into a pleasant Spring; although Weeping hath been for a Night, yet Joy hath been in the Morn-  
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ing, and thus we know the Lord hath reached to us in his everlasting Love, and brought us near to himself, where he sets his tender People, as in a Garden of Spices, where he hath sown his holy Seed, and planted a noble Vine, which yields tender Grapes; and here Love is sown, and it grows up sweetly in the Habitations of the Faithful, which raiseth their Souls more and more after the Lord, where they see the beautiful Feet of him whom their Souls love, who comes to revive and refresh the Soul, leaping upon the Mountains, and skipping upon the Hills, who dwells amongst them, and his Mercies are daily towards his People, who sees all their Mournings, and wipes away all the Tears from their Eyes.

And so you tender People, who retain your faithfulness to the Lord, who are brought into the Garden of your beloved, from the uncertain wayes of the World, and out of the Wilderness of old *Adam*, where you come to know the true anointing, by which you come to be a royal Priesthood, and a holy Nation, and this keeps sweet and savoury in Life and Doctrine, and hereby you have a discerning given you of God over that which is contrary to the pure Life, so that I may well say, the anointing you have received of him abides in you, and you have no need that any man teach you, *but as the same Anointing teacheth you of all things*, which is the Truth, and is no Lye.

And so, dear Friends, let your Lamps be filled with the holy Oyl, that in this Trying Day you may have Light in your Habitations; for the Lord is searching *Jerusalem* as with Candles, and distinguishing between Virgin and Virgin, and nothing will pleasure him but a sweet savoury Life; and therefore you that are in the Garden of the Lord, labour whilst its called to day, that you may eat the fruit of the good Land, and obtain Salvation and Strength; for here must be no Idleness, if any doth the work of the Lord negligently, the Curse lies at his door, and the Field of such will be overgrown with Thornes, and the Hedge thereof will be broken down, and such will be as the sluggard of old, who was to be clothed with Rags, and beg in Harveft, and nothing shall be given them; and such as do not watch, their Shame will appear: And so, as all work and labour in the Lords Vineyard, they will be more and more acquainted with his Mind and Will, and will grow like Olive Branches, into the fatness and fresh Nature of the Vine, and the bosom of the Father will be open to receive them from day to day; and here they retain the Love and

Unity in the Spiritual Mind, and can say, *His Love is better than Wine, and the favour of his Oyntment than all the Powders of the Adoréant.* So there is nothing like to the enjoyment of the Lords Presence; for surely its better than all worldly Enjoyments; for his Countenance is comely, and the light thereof being lifted up upon his People, makes their Hearts more glad than the Increase of Corn, Wine and Oyl. And so, let all keep in the Light of this clear Gospel-day, wherein as all abide and walk, they will see the reach of the Adversary, and how far he can come, and how God hath hedged him out of the Habitations of his faithful Ones, where the Destroyer of the first born in the Land of *Egypt*, cannot come, whose Post-doors are sprinkled with the Blood of the Lamb, which is Christ, our Passover, who loved us and gave himself for us; and these cannot mingle themselves with the World, nor dare not learn their Wayes, nor enter into their corrupt Communications; and here the holy Seed remains within, and this keeps from being touched with the wicked One, and here our Societies will be kept pure and undefiled, and we shall grow more and more in a sanctified state, and here is the great Blessing of such in whose Heart the Seed of God takes place, and finds an honest Ground, and so takes Root downward, and brings forth Fruit upward, and hereby the Earth comes to be replenished with Righteousness; and so shall we come to the blotting out of Sin, and to abide in the New and Everlasting Covenant of God, where Iniquity is remembred no more: And this is cause of joy to the true Worshippers, that they may still travel on; for in this Covenant Perfection is attainable; and such as run in this Way of Holiness, though their Sins have been as Scarlet or Crimson, they shall be washt away; for the *Blood of Jesus Christ* is sufficient for the Sins of the greatest Sinners in the World, else what should we do? and what would become of us, whose Sins were gone over our Heads, and become a burden to us too heavy to bear, and were led many years into sin, the Wages of which is Death. And so, Christ is manifested to destroy Sin, and through the destruction of Sin, the Death that comes over Mankind, comes to be abolished, and Life and Immortality brought to light: So he is risen to kill and make alive, to wound and heal, to cut off and plant again in a new way, out of Sin, in Righteousness and Holiness; and unto all such as keep in Obedience to him, he is to them as a little Sanctuary, who is known this day to be a Saviour indeed, who ransoms from Death and redeems from the power of the Grave; and here they

they are preserved in Drought and Famine, and led to Fountains of living Water, and they drink of the Brooks by the way, as in the beginning, and find Rivers opened in dry places, and so they feed in the low Vallies; and here Christ, the only Shepherd and Bishop of Souls, is exalted over all, and Self laid in the Dust forever; for his Kingdom is forever, and his Day is Everlasting, in whose Day *Judah* shall be saved, and *Israel* shall dwell safely, whom God hath given the *Heathen* for his Inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the Earth for his Possession, and abundance of Peace shall be in his day as long as the Sun and Moon endures, whose Day, and whose Ministration is more universal than the Ministration of the Law and Prophets, who is the fulfiller of them, and the enlightner of every man that comes into the World, whose Light and Spirit is poured out upon his Sons and Daughters, Old and Young, Servants and Hand-maids, and all may come to possess their Gifts, and work in his Vineyard, and the Light and Knowledge of his Glory shall fill the Earth as the Waters cover the Sea, and joyful it is to serve and obey him; for they that serve him in Truth, and with upright Hearts, shall carry his Image with them, which is a living Image in the Life of Innocency, and his Love is fresh in them, which keeps them in love one with another; but such as go into Iniquity, the Love waxeth cold, and here Death comes over them, and Death's Image they bear, who rides upon the pale Horses, and Hell follows him.

And so, you People of the Lord, enter into your Closets, and shut the Doors about you, while the Indignation passeth over; for there is a sound of Wrath from the Lord God; search and try your selves, let no Spot remain in your Garments; see your Hearts daily, how and with what they are affected, whether with the things of Heaven above, or the things here below; and so all Spots will be washed away, and your holy Garments will be put on, and in your fine Linnen, which God hath put on you, you will stand before him.

*Your Friend and Brother in the Truth,*

**RICHARD SAMBLE,**

## *An Epistle to be read in Friends Meetings.*

*Dear and well beloved Friends;*

**I** Who am your Brother and fellow-Traveller in the Work and Service of God, salute you, wishing Preservation and Peace, in Righteousness with God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, and your Increase in Grace and Life, and that all may faithfully walk with God, in the Light that comes from him, in which is Preservation from day to day, though Times may be dangerous and perilous, and the Enemy (the roaring Lion) going up and down, seeking whom he may devour, who is an Enemy to God and his Creation, and seeks to overthrow his Work, and bring that living Birth, which is begotten of God, into Bondage; which Enemy, in the Light is seen, as all abide there, and wait daily to feel Gods everlasting Power to bring Judgment over him; and as Judgment is brought over the Devil, the Devourer of the living, so the heavenly Joy is known, and the pure Peace of God which passeth Knowledge; and as the Judgment is set over that Spirit, so his Dominion and Power in man and woman ceaseth, and Life comes forth into Light, and when the true raised begotten Life is brought into the Light, then is the Heart full of Praises and Glory unto God, and the Lord Jesus Christ: But if the Life, which once was raised in you be darkned, and you do not feel the Judgment daily to stand over the Enemy, then here can be no true Joy, nor true Peace, but a false created Peace, and Joy, and Satisfaction, drawn into the Comprehension, in which the outward Man satisfies it self with the Earth, and lives in the beggarly Elements; and so the Earth comes over the Seed of Life, and Darkness overshadows the Mind, and the Soul is in a separation from the Life of God, and buried under, into the Dust, where the unclean unrighteous Spirit reigns over it, who possibly may steal a Profession of the Truth, and it may be the words of Truth, to deceive the Creature withal, while he perswades the Creature concerning the Wellfare of his Soul, and many years Convintement, and all the while leads the Body into Inconveniences, and now and then to act such things as displease God, and bring a weight of Darkness over the soul. Therefore, my dearly beloved in the Lord, watch in the Light unto the appearance

appearance of the Power of God, that the tender Breathings of your souls may be preserved; for its certain while Life remains in the soul, it daily breathes unto the Lord; and I know you, *my Friends*, who are alive to God, can bear me true witness, if at any time your tender Hearts and Souls are oppressed, and if a Cloud overshadow you, so that you cannot behold your beloved while Life lies thus oppressed and grieved, what secret Cryes are within you unto the Lord God, who hears and inwardly answers your Groanings, and tenders your Cries, and binds up your broken Hearts? until which time and season there is a sitting down in sorrow, saying, *Where is my beloved gone?* and mourning in secret in the deep Retiredness of the Mind, which at last, to the great joy of the Oppressed, the Lord tenderly appears, and gives the *Oyl of Joy for Mourning, and the Garments of Gladness for the Spirits of Heaviness.*

So, all you *Friends* of God, and of his blessed Truth, be diligent in the things pertaining to *Everlasting Life*, and be rich in the Blessings of Heavens Kingdom, for that will never fail nor come to an end; but this World will end, and daily passeth away, and its Glory fadeth like the Flower of the Grass, and when we are gone, and have spent our dayes, they will never come over us more, neither shall we have a beeing here again to pass through them, but now is the time, *my dear Friends*, for us all to be prepared for the World that is to come; and truly, great is the Love of our God unto us; since we have been called, we have had a large time to prepare for the day, but see many are not so diligent in this great Work as they ought to be, and it is to be feared, it will be with them as it was with the foolish Virgins, and with those that were bidden to the great Supper, who were not ready when the Table was spread and the Feast prepared, whose Portion you may consider of, the one was shut out from the Marriage Chamber, and the other did not taste of the Supper, whose end was in *Eternal Sorrow.* And truly, in a sweet Consideration of the great goodness of God, I cannot but bless his worthy Name, whose pure drawing Life hath united a Remnant unto himself, who were as dry Bones in the open Valley, which the pure Breathing Life of God hath passed upon, and entred into, which do now live, and stand up from the dead, out of their Graves, and are joyned together, Bone to Bone, and they do not want Marrow nor Fatness, but do enjoy that heavenly Moisture, and they do flourish like an Herb, and they are alive that were dead, and in the Light that were i

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Darkness, and they do feed, as in the days of old, in the Mountain of the height of *Israel*, and their Fold is in the sure Habitation, within the strong Munition, where the poor innocent harmless Sheep now and then turn, in when they are weary, and lie down together and rest sweetly, out of the Storms and Tempests, and are glad when they find this Fold; [let the living read] and turn into the Fold, you travelling Ones, and feel my Life, and let us be refreshed here: Oh! let us eat and drink abundantly, O my Friends; for my Soul hath known many a stormy time, and hath seen the grievous oppressing Enemy, the evening Wolf, who hath sought for my Life, from one Exercise to another, and from one Temptation to another, doth he follow the Redeemed of the Lord, to destroy them from that holy Joy and Comfort they feel from the Fathers Presence; but as a tender Shepherd he watcheth over his Flock night and day, and never slumbers nor falls a sleep, but is at hand to deliver his from the Mouth of the devouring Enemy: Oh! who will not fear him, and be ready at his Command, who thus keeps us, *my dear Friends*, when we cannot keep our selves, oh! when he leads us into Peace, and drives back this our Enemy? let us then prize the Times of Refreshment that come from his Presence; let none be weary of waiting upon him, nor slow to follow him, but all be willing and ready to run when he draws, and follow on, to know him more and more; for to know his Ways is perfect Peace and Joy: Oh! had not the Lord been near us, where had we been? had not his strength been revealed in our great weakness, how great an Overthrow had there been? but through the great and blessed Revelation of Gods Power we are upheld and preserved, and do remain firm through the Settling of the Power of God upon the sure Foundation, where the Shaking that shake all other buildings, and break all other Rocks in pieces, cannot shake or move this our Building, nor break our Rock; for our Rock is the Lord Jesus; God hath prepared him, and laid in the midst of us, that every one may be surely built upon him; and he is our God, and none is like unto him; he is our Father, and we will be subject to him; he is our Master, we will fear him; he is our Lord, and we will honour him; we are the Clay, and he is our Potter, and he hath taken us out of the great Camp which is unfitted and deformed. And *Friends*, what were we until the Lord did form us, and make us Vessels fit for his use and service? Now blessed are those Vessels who are prepared unto Honour, the preserving Power of God will keep them from being



being cast away, and trodden under foot of men, and from being broken in pieces, and they shall never come to Condemnation, but shall remain in the House of God forever, and his Name shall be upon them, and they shall be Holy, and the Lord will bless them, and fill them with Glory, and make them honourable in his House forever. But if any Vessel be unclean in his holy House, the day will come of breaking, and cutting off from the House of the Lord, and casting away and treading under Foot forever, and such will be broken in pieces, and be rendred useles forever.

Therefore, *dear Friends*, be zealous for the Glory of God in all things, and let that be chiefly in every ones Eye, and daily feel his Presence in all your Actions; and let none do or act any thing at any time, out of Gods counsel, nor enter into the ways of the World, nor follow them, nor learn their ways, as old *Israel* learned the wayes of the *Heathen*, and their works, and so became worse than they were; but let all take heed of the World, that is accursed, and the Earth that brings forth Bryars and Thornes, lest the Eye be blinded with the Glory thereof, and so fall under, into the cursed Earth, as old *Adam* did, and so bring the Curse upon your selves, and Gods Presence with-draw from you, and go not with you by Sea or Land; but all cleave unto the Lord, and seek unto him, seeing time is short, and passeth swiftly away; and keep your selves in the Love of God, looking for the Promise of Eternal Life, in the precious indwelling Light, where the Bosom of true Love is enjoyed, which brings over the Mind and Heart affections and desires unto Christ, and engages every Soul unto Obedience day by day, and this will stand to the end; for this is with the Creature in secret, and exercises his Spirit when he is alone: And the Lord God thus renewing his Love unto the Soul, the quicknings thereof bring over the outward Man, into a true sanctified state. So here is a daily growth and enlargement unto God, and a daily separation from the World; and here the Mind is redeemed from the Earth, and the old Lovers are cast away, and a pure joyning to Christ Jesus the Lord, who is the true Beloved, the Husband and the true Friend; and so his Life springs up in you all, and breaks through you, in all your Actions, the Lamb-like unspotted Life; and here is your Pity and your Mercy, which is better than Sacrifice, who do not crucifie the Lord in the Streets nor in the House, nor in the Field; but if any go out of the Light, & work, profess, & reason about the things of God in the dark clouded ground and habitation, which  
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God appears not in, neither is with the Creature in any act of sin; or uncleanness whatsoever, all such will be deceived; for they give away their strength to a treacherous Delilah, like *Sampson*, and so become weak like other men, though he was able, while his strength was with him, to slay a thousand with a Jaw-bone of an Ass: And so, let all mind these things, lest any should loose their Eyes, like *Sampson*, when his strength was gone, and the *Philistians* make sport unto them.

*Friends*, In the Love of God I desire and warn all to be ponderous, and let us be Valiant for Gods holy Truth; you know God hath brought us out of the dark sinful World, and out of *Egypt* spiritually; for we were rather *Egyptians* than *Christians* in these days; for the *Egyptian* Nature, and the *Cainite* and *Ishmaelite* were the first born in our Land, which God Almighty did smite with the stroke of his high and glorious Arm, who sent the destroying Angel before him, to bring Death over the *Egyptian* Nature, and to cast out *Ishmael*, the cunning Archer, and to waste the *Cainite* until he was consumed; and so brought *Israel* into the Possession of the *Gentiles*, to inhabit a Land flowing with Milk and Honey, which is a Land of Rivers and Streams of Water, and is blessed from one Season to another with the Dew of Heaven? Oh! this is the Possession of the true *Israel* this day, which is sealed unto all who are come out of *Egypt* into the Land of Promise, who though they are in the World, are not of the World, but their Conversation is in Heaven, and do feel the Life sealed to them, in the Covenant of Light, Christ the Seed, unto whom all the Promises of God are yea and amen unto eternal Life.

Now, you my dear *Friends*, for whom I am deeply concerned in my Spirit; who are the People for whom I feel a travel in me; who profess the everlasting unspotted Truth of God, a coming up out of *Egypt*, and the wonders of God in the destruction of the *Egyptians*, and your Souls deliverance from the *Egyptian* Bondage; let none bring an *Egyptian* alive into the Camp this day; *Friends*, I mean the *Egyptian* Nature, filled with Obstructions that will not suffer your Souls to lie down in Peace with God, but will draw back again into *Egypt* and *Sodom*, where Death comes over the Life, and Darkness between God and the Soul; for if any bring an *Egyptian* with them into the Camp, they will fall a lusting by the way, and upon any Exercise, or Tryal, or Temptation, will turn into Disobedience, and so provoke the Lord, like old *Israel*, who brought a deceitful Heart with them out of *Egypt* in old time;

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which never was content nor satisfied in the Wilderness, but longed to be in Egypt again, and said unto Moses, Did not we tell thee, when we were in Egypt, Let us alone, let us dye here by the Flesh-Pots; Why wilt thou carry us hence into the Wilderness? But you may consider, what became of them; Did they not dye in the Wilderness, and their Carcasses fall by little and little, till they were all consumed.

So, Friends, you that are come out of the Bondage of Egypt, into the way of Life and Salvation, which God hath made in the Wilderness, keep home still in your Tents; for God that hath brought us forth, hath furnished us with his Blessings, & by the Way he hath given us Drink of the heavenly Bottle of his sweet Wine, and Bread we have for our hunger, its nearer to us than the Manna was to old Israel; and so you may eat and drink and be refreshed. And Friends, blessed are you that are travelling on, the Lord hath said, The Bottle of Wine shall not fail; for the Grapes are always green and fresh, the Vine is with us that never decays, its planted in our Land, within our Habitations, and we are blessed because of him, and rained upon for his sake. And so, blessed are you sensible Ones, who feel the blessing of the Seed, that yield Fruit in your Land; you that fill your Houses with the Treasures of Heaven, dwell in the Seed the Lord God hath sown in you; let it grow up in all, saith my Soul, till all come to inhabit in it, as the Birds of the Air in the Branches of the Grain of Mustard-feed; so all will come to be preserved over the Devil, and out of all his Wayes, in the Light of the Lamb, and in his sweet Life, which will be a Bosom of Love to you; and as the heavenly Life of the Lamb comes up in all into Dominion, so the World, and all perishing things come under; and here is your Honour, and Beauty, and Glory, and here you shine in Glory as Stars, and Life through all preaches to the dead dark lost World; in which Life I salute you all, that can read these Lines in the Love of God, and desire by you to be felt and enjoyed, though far outwardly separated from you, that in it we may keep our unity and fellowship forever, and then the Devil, nor the World, nor the Flesh, nor any Power or Arm of Men or Angels, contrary to the Power and Arm of God, shall ever break off or separate us. So the Lord God of Glory, who is able to keep you to the end, establish you, and build you up in his own Power, that you may reign over Death, and Hell, and all Enemies of your Bodies and Souls; Amen.

Oxford, the 20th of the  
8th Month, 1677.

Your loving Brother in the Truth, R. SAMBLE.

## A Warning to this Evil Generation.

**O**N the 22th of the 12th Moneth, 1679. as I lay in my Bed in the Morning, my Heart being under a deep Exercise, in absence of the sad and woful state and condition of the People of this Generation, and how they remain in a rebellious state against the Lord, and hate to be reformed from their evil Wayes, it was opened to me by the Lord concerning the day of his Visitation, how he affords to all People a time wherein they may return and live; and it was opened to me on this wise, The People in the old World had a day of Visitation, and God sent his Spirit, and it did strive with them, to bring them unto himself, out of their evil Wayes. So here was a day of Visitation unto them, wherein they might be saved, but they rebelled against his Spirit, and went on in their Ungodliness, and follow'd the thoughts of their evil Hearts, and minded not Gods Love in the day of his Mercy, till he was grieved to the very Heart, and repented that he had made man upon the Earth; and then he took his holy Spirit from them, and closed up the way of his Mercies and Favours from them, and so ended their days in sorrow, but God was clear of their Blood, they being visited with the Spirit of Life, which did strive with them to reclaim their Hearts out of the hands of the Enemy of Souls; who rules in them that disobey God; and so their Destruction was of themselves, and they perished in the day of Wrath and Vengeance, because of their stubbornness against the Reproofs and stirrings of the Spirit of the Lord. And God sent Messengers to *Sodom*, to reclaim them from their ungodly VVays and Abominations, but they refused the tenders of Gods Love, and then the Lord brought a day of Destruction upon them, and with Fire and Brimstone destroyed them; but they had a day of Visitation, and there was a Righteous man amongst them, as a Witness for God, but his righteous Soul was vexed from day to day with their Ungodly Deeds; so God was clear of them, inasmuch as he used a means for their Recovery out of their sins, and from their evil Ways. And the *Jews* had many Visitations from God, and he gave them his good Spirit to instruct them, but they also rebelled against it; and as there was many Rebellious among them

them against God and his Law, so there were many Destructions, sometimes *Plagues* and *Pestilence*, and sometimes *Fire* and *Sword*, which made them few in number many times, yet before the day of Destruction, they had still a day of Visitation, and they being stubborn & rebellious, were so much the more visited with the stroke of Gods furious hand, although they thought to cover themselves with many Prayers, and many Sacrifices and sinful VVorships, yet so much the more did their Sorrows increase in the end of their Visitation, insomuch that the Prophet said, *The Punishments of the Iniquity of my People is greater than the Punishment of the Sin of Sodom, which perished in a Moment.* And *Jonah* was sent with a Message from God to *Niniveh*; and this was Gods Love to them, and they received the Lords Visitation, and repented and were spared; and therefore said Christ to the *Jews*, *That the men of Niniveh should rise up against them in judgment, and condemn them.* So here Christ condemned those that did not repent. So here was a day of Visitation before the Lord would quite give up the Children of men to Destruction in all Ages; and their neglecting the Day of their Visitation, was the cause of their Destruction: And now in this Age of the World, the Lord hath visited the Children of men, and sent down his Spirit from on high, which is the faithful and true Witness against the Sins of this Age in every Heart of Man and Woman, which strives against the Evil of their Hearts, to reclaim them from their sinful Wayes, and God would have gathered the People of this Generation as a Hen gathers her Chickens under her Wings, and would have planted them in his Everlasting Truth, and given them a Name and a Habitation in his everlasting Kingdom, which is durable, and never will decay; and God would have put his Law in their hearts and his Spirit in their inward parts, and have brought them into his own Covenant, and to be related unto himself, through his Son Christ Jesus, and so be a chosen Generation; and he would have redeemed them out of the Sins of this Age; and God did send forth his tender Visitation unto them, when sin did not altogether so much abound in the Nation, as it doth this day; but they have refused to return, and have not repented, nor left their evil Ways; and they are gone further from the Lord, and are greater Enemies unto him than before; and they have trampled under their feet the tenders of my Love, saith my God; and they have made themselves merry over the Witness; and behold, they have set at nought the appearance of his dear Son, whose Light

from Heaven shines in their Hearts; and they delight in lying Vanities, and forsake their own Mercies; and they swell in Pride, Whoredom, Drunkenness and Swearing, these be some of the great crying Sins of this Age; and God hath seen the Wickedness which in secret is daily acted in this Nation, as well as these things which are done in publick; for the People of this Age are not ashamed, neither do they blush, although in the exercise of those gross Evils, which exceed as the Sins of *Sodom*; and they have spent upon their Lusts the Blessings which God hath sent upon them; who hath not withheld his hand, but it hath been open in showering down Rain from Heaven, and fruitful Seasons; And how hath Drunkenness abounded, which is a horrible sin? And will not the Lord visit that society? Was not *W* pronounced against the Drunkards of *Ephraim*, and the Crown of Pride? Did Swearing cause the Land to mourn in the days of old? And is it not so in our day? Was Heaven and Earth called to bear witness against that Age and Generation in the Prophets time? And may not we say the same? Hath not God given Life, Breath and Being to the People of this Generation? Hath he not nourished them, and brought them up? yet they have rebelled, and continue in their Rebellion against him? How doth the Aged bear the burden of the Sins of their Yonth? Do the Aged lay this to Heart? Do they consider their end so near approaching? Do they indeed know that nothing but the New-birth, which is of the Incorruptible Seed, shall enter into Gods Kingdom? Doth the Young man consider, that his dayes are in the Lords hands, and his Breath is from him? Doth he indeed know, that though he sport himself, and cheer his Heart in VVickedness, that God will bring him to Judgment? Doth the Drunkard, Swearer and Whoremonger know that none such shall enter the Kingdom of God? Doth the Proud Person consider, that God will abase all such? Doth he not know, that the Devil is King of all the Children of Pride? And indeed considering the just way of God, both in visiting Nations with his Love, and bearing long with the Sons of Men, as he is a Merciful God; and then in the day of his Anger, how he hath gone forth as a man of War, and assembled the People to bring his eternal Dread over the Nations. At the appearance of this, and in the sence of this, my Heart hath sometimes even failed within me, my Soul hath cried unto the Lord God for the Exercise of his long forbearance, as he is a God slow to Anger, and abundant in Mercy and Truth; and under deep



Affliction and Travels hath my Spirit been for many days, for the Land of my Nativity; and this hath been a continual Cry within me for many dayes, *O Lord, how shall I be eased? and what must I do? Lord, will the days of many be shortened? Will they fin out their days? Will they run out their Race in that way which leads to Destruction? Oh! shall it come thus to pass, as in the days of old, when thy Visitation was shut up from Israel, when thou wouldst hear no Prayers that were made for them, when thou wouldst not be found of them? Oh! shall the Day of Calamity come upon this Generation? Shall the Enemy come in? Shall the Destroyer enter into this Land? Shall they take the Young Men to Grind? Shall the Children fall under the Wood? Shall it be as when they Ravished the Women in Sion, and the Maids in the Streets of Jerusalem? Now the living Lord God that made Heaven and Earth, hath born long with this Rebellious People, and hath passed to and fro this Land from Year to Year, and he sees the Wickedness of the Inhabitants, and how they grow worse and worse, and more Wicked and Vile from time to time, therefore will he bring that to pass which he determines; for the Day hastens upon many, that Joy shall be taken from them, and those things wherein they delight themselves shall not prove Peace and Satisfaction to them; but a Day of Bitterness and Calamity, yea, a Day of Wondering and Amazement, a Day of pouring out Vials of Wrath from the most High, a Day of Bowing down and laying Low the Proud and Lofty; and thus the Lord is putting, and will yet put the Cup of Trembling into the hands of the Ungodly, and they must drink it, even the very Dregs of it, and none shall be able to stand, but who are built upon the Rock, Christ the Power of God, who are born of him, and so are brought out of the World, and are in a spiritual unity and fellowship with him in his pure Light, and so are redeemed from the Earth, and come from under the Curse, and are passed from Death to Life, These shall be preserved unto God over all the Plagues and Judgments which hang over this Nation; for the same Eternal God, (as I said before) who gives to the Children of men a Visitation of his Love, to invite them to himself, hath been large in his Love and Mercy to this Generation; but in as much as they hate to be reformed thereby, therefore will he plead with them in his Fury: Oh! what Tokens hath there been of the Notable Day of the Lord? What hath been prophesied of, but hath in some measure been fulfilled in this Generation? Hath there not been Signs in the Heavens above, and in the Earth below,*

low? And even hath not Nation been against Nation, and Kingdom against Kingdom? Is not Brother ready to destroy Brother to Death? the Father, the Son, and the Son, the Father? Is not Fallhood and Treachery very prevalent amongst the People of this Age? And how ready are they to forget the Lord, notwithstanding all his Indignations, both in his Mercies and Judgments? Surely the day is near, its even at the Door, its ready to break forth: Oh! my Heart hath oft been very heavy, my Soul been full of deep Travails, in a fence of the Wo and Misery which is hastening upon the Wicked; *And if the Righteous scarcely shall be saved, where shall the Ungodly and Sinner appear?* Oh! hasten by Repentance, to meet the Lord, all ye Hard-hearted, all ye Stiff-necked and Proud People, who are lifted up and exalted in Pride above the pure Witness of God in your Hearts: Come down, Come down from your Mountains, into the low Vallies of deep Humility before the Eternal God: Oh! let his Fear and Dread be upon you; for the time of the End is near, the Judgment-day is at hand; a Day of Sorrow and Distress, of Anguish and Tribulation from the holy Lord God is hastening upon all the Wicked; Weeping, Wailing and Gnashing of Teeth, when the Cry will go forth, *Depart ye Workers of Iniquity, Go ye Cursed into Everlasting Fire:* Oh! what shall I do for the Inhabitants of this Land? Oh! my Soul shall mourn in secret, as oft-times it hath done, for the People of the Land of my Nativity: I will cry unto my God for the lengthening out of their Day of Visitation, according to his long forbearance, as he is a God of tender Mercies and hearing: Shall my Soul find a place in his Presence, as he hath laid a necessity upon me to cry up and down this Nation concerning his Determination, *Oh! the Day, the Day that is near to come, of rending down and trampling upon the Ungodly, who work with the Wicked One, and not with God:* Oh! the Lord is Angry, the Lord is Angry, I am made to proclaim it, a Necessity is upon me, a Necessity is upon me; the Stroke of the Fury of the Lord will find out many who seem to be at ease, who are lying down in their Pollutions, as if they were never to be accountable for their Doings: *Arise, Arise, hasten and come forth out of this great black and dark Body of Unrighteousness, where Babylon's Wickedness abounds, who is become a Habitation of Devils, a Cage of every foul Spirit, and of every unclean and hateful Bird; and come to the Lord God, whose holy Witness leads out of the Wickedness of the World; its a pure Way, the Path of the Righteous, shining more and more unto*

the perfect Day; its set up by the Lord God to shew lost man his present lost and undone state, to all that believe in it, it brings them to God, its in all Hearts: And this is the Visitation of Gods Love to this Age, as unto other Ages.

So having done the Will of God, in answering what he required in this matter, I rest, desiring the Return of all the Children of men, out of these Evils and Abominations, whereby he is greatly displeased, and is angry, and Fury is come up in his face, for which he will stretch forth his hand with a mighty Stroke, to execute his fierce Wrath upon the Ungodly World.

RICHARD SAMBLE.

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## An Epistle to Friends of Cornwall.

Dear Friends;

**I** Send this Salutation, as though it were my last unto you, wherein I take my leave of you in the Lord Jesus Christ, desiring you may all obey the Truth, and live and dye in it: And the many sweet and heavenly Opportunities which my Soul hath had with you, is fresh in my Remembrance. And now dear Hearts, my Body grows very weak, but my Soul is strong in the Lord, who hath greatly renewed the lasting Seal of his Love unto my Soul this Morning: Oh! how could I sleep when my Heart was so awakened into the blessed sence of my Acquaintance with the Lord, which founded through my Habitation, that my Name should not be blotted out of the Book of Life, and of the holy City, the heavenly Jerusalem, whose Foundation is full of precious Stones, the River of Water of Life flows, where the Gates are not shut at all by Day, neither is any Night there; Which when my Soul heard, my Heart was dissolved and broke within me, and my Head was, as it were, turned into Waters, and mine Eyes gushed out with Tears in the Consideration of the endless Love of God to such a poor Creature as I.

And now, my dear Friends, who are truly near me in the Lord, you know the time of our first knowledge and acquaintance, which was a time of Love, and to this day my Heart is filled with  
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the same towards you, though I am like, as to the outward, to see your Faces no more. *O Friends!* be not ensnared nor entangled with things of this World, nor let your Minds go out of Truth, and so lose the Everlasting stay and support of your souls in the last day, but rather let go all, and hold fast the Truth, and keep your Hearts from being over-run with the Worlds Spirit; and so will the Spirit of Truth spring up in you, as a Well to refresh your Souls. And all you whose Hearts are truly Tender to the Lord, whose Tryals and Exercises are not a few, be not daunted nor discouraged, altho' the Enemy may seek to frighten you with many Temptations, and would seek to lead you out of Fellowship with your dying day, which Exercise my Soul hath sometimes past under; but blessed be the Lord forever, the Enemy is found a Lyar; for the Lord has been pleased to make this sick Bed unto me better than a Kings Palace, and I have great fellowship with my last day, and do rejoyce in the Lord, who doth so sweetly visit me with the glorious Light of his Countenance; its with me as with one who has travelled many weary Journeys, and at last hath come to the sight of his desired End, which when he sees greatly rejoices in a sense of a further satisfaction, which he shall after enjoy; even so it is with me, who have mist no Opportunity where I saw Life's way clear open before me, but have been ready night and day to do the Will and answer the Requirements of the Lord, and so run as one in a Race, knowing my Time, that its but short, and blessed be the Lord I have great Peace and Satisfaction in this my weak and low Condition, and satisfied, seeing my lot was not at this time amongst you, that it is here in this place, and I hope it will be well whether I live or dye.

And so, my *dear* and *well-beloved Friends*, dwell in Love one with another, walking in the unspotted Life, so shall you grow up as pleasant Plants in the Garden of the Lord, and the Dew of Life will more and more descend upon you, and this you will feel from day to day; and then when you shall come to your latter end, your Reward will be sure with the Lord. I have much in my Heart towards you, but my strength fails, only this I desire of you, seeing I am like to leave my Wife and tender Babes with you, whom I know not whether ever I shall see more) great is my Love and tender Respects to them, for we have lived from the beginning as two joyned together by the Lord, which gives Victory over the World, believing that when I am gone, the care of

of my God will be over them; and I have been a tender Father to them, and they have been to me very tender Children, and my Wife hath been to me as Bone of my Bone, and Flesh of my Flesh, yet I must leave both her and them unto the Lord; and this I would leave with you, my dear Brethren and Sisters, who have known me from the beginning, that you esteem of her, when I am gone, as one that was Wife to him who was made willing in his day to spend and be spent for Gods Truth and Churches sake; and I desire you in the Lord Jesus Christ, that my dear Wife might meet with no discouragements from you, as she is a Woman of a tender spirit, and then you will be Encouragers of her. I know when this comes to your hands there will be no want of sorrow, but I trust in my God, that both my dear Wife and You will be so endued with the Power and Presence of the Lord, that if you should hear of my going hence, that you will conclude, as becomes true Christians, *That you must come to me, and that I cannot come to you.*

And so, my dear Friends, in the opening free Love of God, which this Morning my Soul is visited withal, do I dearly salute you, desiring the Lord may be a Husband to my dear Wife, and a Father to my Children, and you Friends to both. And whereas I have never been wanting in my Labours and Service for the Glory of the Lord, and your good, when with you, and if the Lord be pleased yet to lengthen my days, I trust I shall be as ready and as willing as ever I have been, so shall conclude in a sweet and living sense of that Love which will never dye, my Wifes dear Husband, and Childrens tender Father, and your own dear Friend and Brother in the Immortal Seed of Life, where we are nearly and dearly related one to another.

RICHARD SAMBLE.

Poole, the 1st. of the 2  
1st. Mon. 1680. }